MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 FEBRUARY 1981

Iran

Clashes Reported, Government Reaction--Following a Tehran radio report of clashes in Bandar-e 'Abbas on 18 February, the clandestine Radio Iran asserted on 21 February that many had been injured in the incident, which the radio termed a "massive" demonstration against the "dictatorship." It also said that antigovernment demonstrations took place in Qom and Tabriz on 18 February in which citizens clashed with revolutionary guards.

In a speech broadcast by Tehran radio, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i castigated those who disrupt peace, stage marches forbidden by the Interior Ministry and cause clashes, saying that they are "sincere collaborators of Reagan." He asked people not to air their differences in speeches because "society...needs calm" and urged them to cooperate with the revolution and with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni. Tehran radio also reported that President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr commented on the same issue, saying on 21 February that people should put aside their "clubs" and sit down to discuss matters. An unattributed Tehran radio commentary discussing the problem of "club wielding" said its source can be found in statements and documents distributed within organizations "rejected by society" that advise their members to "exacerbate" the differences between the president and other government members. Those who enjoy seeing anarchy rule but manage to survive it and who pose as the oppressed party are the "real perpetrators" of such acts, the commentary concluded.

British Prisoners--Three British missionaries imprisoned in Iran have been released from jail and are expected to return home within a week. Reporting their release, LONDON PRESS ASSOCIATION added that a fourth Briton, businessman Andrew Pyke, is believed to be still under detention.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Palme Mission--UN special envoy Olof Palme met on 20 and 21 February with Iranian officials, including President Bani-Sadr, Majlis speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani and Mohammad Hashemi, Prime Minister Raja'i's political adviser. According to Tehran radio, Bani-Sadr told Palme, who is attempting to mediate between Iran and Iraq, that Iran will not negotiate with Iraq until all Iraqi troops leave Iranian territory. Tehran radio's Arabic service, reporting Palme's meeting with Mohammad Hashemi, said Hashemi upbraided Palme for not telling the world about Iraq's "crimes" and said that Palme's "neutrality is completely prejudiced on the side of the aggressor."

Military Situation--Both Tehran radio and IRAQI NEWS AGENCY reported continued exchanges of fire and scattered engagements along all southern and western fronts from 20 to 22 February. Tehran radio claimed that Iraqi aircraft overflew southern cities but were forced by Iranian fire to flee and that Iranian troops cut off the Iraqi supply route in the Gilan-e Gharb region.

Iraq

According to the Damascus-based Voice of Iraq radio, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was the target of an assassination attempt last week. Citing reports by arrivals from Baghdad, the radio said the attempt was uncovered only 5 minutes before it was scheduled to take place.

Syrian-Jordanian Relations

Kidnapped Diplomat--The chairman of the Committee for the Defense of the Constitution and Freedom in Lebanon received a cable from the chairman of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, stating that the kidnapped Jordanian charge d'affaires is alive and is being detained "somewhere between" Damascus and Beirut.

Jordanian Ambassador--The Amman newspaper AD-DUSTUR reported that Jordan's ambassador to Syria, Husayn Hamami, returned to Damascus after being recalled to Amman for consultations.

Commentaries--An unattributed Amman radio commentary claimed that Syria envies Jordan's good relations with the world and fears the reduction of Syria's role in international affairs. Such fears do not justify the Syrian rulers' mistakes, however, nor do they justify Syria's attempt to spoil relations between Jordan and the PLO, the commentary said. The Syrian attempt has split the PLO into pro-Syrian groups that oppose cooperation with Jordan and other groups that support such cooperation, the commentary said, adding that to play a "genuine role" Syria must adopt a balanced policy and give up its methods of "terrorism...political assassination and abduction" and "plotting against others and denying their roles."

A commentary by the Damascus newspaper TISHRIN, reported by Damascus radio, said the Arab nation is on the threshold of a "more dangerous and cunning phase of the Camp David conspiracy" in which the United States will be "wagering on the Jordanian regime." The overthrow of the Jordanian regime, the radio said, is now a "pressing pan-Arab responsibility."

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that Israeli forces staged a helicopter landing operation in Al-Kufur, near An-Nabatiyah, meeting with fierce resistance. Confirming the raid, Jerusalem radio reported that IDF forces destroyed an Arab Liberation Front base in the village, killing about 10 "terrorists" and blowing up several houses.

Egypt

'Ali Interview--In a television interview reported by MENA, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali revealed that the tripartite autonomy talks are continuing on the technical level, although they are "almost considered suspended" because of different interpretations of Camp David on the part of Israel on one hand and of Egypt and the United States on the other. If Israel offers anything to "promote" the talks, he said, Egypt will welcome their continuation if there is a change in Israel's concept of "full autonomy."

Officer Arrests--AFP reported that the progressive unionist bulletin AT-TAQADDUM has claimed that a number of army officers were arrested for forming a secret antigovernment organization. Egyptian officials cited by the news agency, however, denied the allegations.

Saudi-YAR Relations

Citing the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR, AFP reported a claim by the YAR opposition National Democratic Front that Saudi forces clashed with YAR troops after crossing the YAR border in Sa'dah Province. Although it did not say when the clashes began, the front's statement said they were continuing as of 21 February and it asserted that the Saudi troops set up a camp and "control points" in the area they occupied. Saudi aid to the YAR has stopped, the front claimed, following conflict between YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar, a member of the YAR National Consultative Council and a strong supporter of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia

The West German news agency DPA, citing an FRG Government spokesman, reported on 21 Feburary that Saudi Arabia has asked to buy the new European Tornado aircraft. According to the spokesman, such a purchase would require approval by Great Britain, Italy and the FRG, and will be discussed at the next FRG cabinet session.

Libya

Asserting that Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's earlier remarks on a possible Soviet-Libyan treaty similar to the Soviet-Syrian treaty have been misinterpreted, Justice Secretary Muhammad Abu al-Qasim az-Zuwayy said that Libya is not considering such a treaty at present but might do so if it were subjected to "foreign dangers." In remarks reported by KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, the secretary pointed out that Al-Qadhdhafi had said that "circumstances forced" Syria to sign a treaty with the USSR and that under similar circumstances Libya might be forced to do the same.

Inter-Arab Affairs

In a joint communique issued on 21 February at the conclusion of a visit to Libya by PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, broadcast by Tripoli radio, the two countries called for a summit conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front "as soon as possible," expressed their support for the struggle of the Egyptian and Omani people to overthrow their respective governments and condemned planned U.S. maneuvers in Oman as "a serious threat to the sovereignty and independence of the Arab countries." They went on to express support for Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev's proposal on the Gulf and Indian Ocean areas and condemned French and U.S. "flagrant interference" in the affairs of Africa. The PDRY leader later arrived in Syria, Damascus radio reported, where he held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad on various subjects, including the "serious turn" of U.S. intervention in the region and the need for continued support for the PLO.

UAE

Shaykh Ahmad ibn Rashid al-Mu'alla, ruler of Umm al-Qaiwayn Emirate, died on 21 February, GULF NEWS AGENCY reported. He was succeeded by his son, Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla, according to EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY.

Afghanistan

Karmal Press Conference--TASS reported that President Babrak Karmal, commenting on French President Giscard d'Estaing's proposal on Afghanistan, told a Moscow press conference on 20 February that the DRA rejects "any attempts to impart an international coloring to the nonexistent Afghan problem." He reiterated that his government is prepared to settle the "problems that have arisen around Afghanistan" on the basis of its proposals of 14 May 1980. Asserting that U.S., Chinese, Pakistani and Egyptian instructors are training the "mercenaries" who continue to "infiltrate" Afghanistan, Karmal also claimed that former members of Iran's SAVAK have set up training bases on Iranian territory.

Battle for Qandahar--According to AFP, a French television reporter who visited Qandahar from 15 to 18 February witnessed "fierce around-the-clock" fighting between Afghan rebels and Soviet and Afghan troops for control of the town. According to the reporter, the rebels held about 80 percent of the town and fighting was continuing when he left on 19 February. He added that the rebels "essentially" control the area between Qandahar and the Pakistani Province of Baluchistan.

Pakistan

Peshawar University and the Engineering University were closed indefinitely, Karachi radio reported, after demonstrations by students on 21 February that "had no relation to their academic activities." About 2,000 students, according to the radio, marched from the campus toward the city and some, when attempts were made to stop them, began firing at policemen with stolen guns. It added that other colleges in Peshawar city, Mardan, Naushehra and Charsadda also were closed because of student disturbances. These closures followed Karachi radio reports of disturbances at Lahore University last week.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 035 *23 February 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Agriculture Delegations Arrive for UAE Conference A 1
Conference Opens 21 Feb A 1
Second Session A 1
'Arafat Receives Romanian Foreign Minister [VOP] A 2
'Arafat Receives Iranian Majlis Deputy Speaker [VOP] A 2
'Arafat Meets With Communist Action Organization [VOP] A 2
'Arafat Accepts Invitation To Visit Moscow A 3

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Defense Minister Rejects Interference in Region C 1

OMAN

Oman, Maldives Establish Diplomatic Relations C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Prince Fahd Discusses Domestic, Foreign Policy C 1
Prince Fahd Gives National Industry Week Speech C 4
Official Expects U.S. To Complete F-15 Armament C 5
[AL-JAZIRAH 17 Feb]

UAE

Prime Minister Announces Death of Al-Qaiwayn Ruler C 6
Successor Chosen C 6
22 Feb Funeral C 6

EGYPT

Mubarak Views Egyptian Policy on Mideast Issues D 1
[Kuwait AS-SIYASAH 16 Feb]
'Ali Gives TV Interview on Palestinian Issue D 5
MENA Reports Kreisky Met 'Palestinian Personality' D 7
Italian Defense Minister Arrives on Official Visit D 7
Meeting With Badawi D 8
Foreign Ministry Makes Statement on Nuclear Treaty D 8

IRAQ

'Izzat Ibrahim Returns to Baghdad From Amman E 1
Tawfiq's 6-Day Visit to Romania, Hungary Reported [cross-reference] E 1
Minister Tawfiq Returns From Romania, Hungary E 1
Jordanian Labor Minister Departs After Talks E 1
Ramadan Meets PRC Ambassador on Economic Ties E 1
Four Syrian Saboteurs Reportedly Held in Jordan E 2

Armed Forces General Command Communiques 20-22 Feb E 2
Communique No 253 E 2
Communique No 254 E 2
Communique No 255 E 3
Baghdad Addresses Iranians 'Yearning for Freedom' E 4

JORDAN

Ambassador to Syria Hamami Returns to Damascus [AD-DUSTUR 21 Feb] F 1
Jordanian-Palestinian Committee Seeks Meeting [AR-RA'Y 21 Feb] F 1
Army Commander Receives UN Military Officials F 1
Syrian Jealously of Jordan's Role, Policy Posited F 1

LEBANON

Butrus, Romania's Andrei Hold Second Meeting G 1
Andrei Departure Statement G 1
Kidnapped Jordanian Charge Reportedly Alive G 1

SYRIA

Ba'th Party Delegation To Attend CPSU Congress H 1
Departure for Moscow H 1
Moscow Arrival Statement H 1
Ba'th Party Statement Calls for Arab Unity H 1
PDRY People's Council Chairman Visits Damascus H 3
Arrival, Al-Asad Meeting H 3
Initial Talks H 3
Meeting With DPFLP H 4
Concluding Talks, Departure H 4
Arab People's Conference Secretariat Opens 22 Feb H 5
Opening Speeches H 5
Cable to Al-Asad H 6
Attempt Reportedly Made on Saddam Husayn's Life H 6

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Natural Gas Negotiations With U.S. Deadlocked I 1
Algeria-Benin Joint Communique Issued in Algiers I 1
FLN Talks With GDR Delegation Begin 21 Feb I 2
FLN Official Departs for Moscow CPSU Congress I 2

LIBYA

PDRY Leader Arrives on Official Visit 20 Feb I 3
Joint Communique on Visit I 3
Readiness, Conditions for Soviet Treaty Reported I 6
Chad Reportedly Rejects Libyan Withdrawal Offer I 6
JANA Reaffirms Sudanese-Libyan Letter Exchange I 6
'Revolutionary Force' Takes Over JANA Paris Office I 7

MOROCCO

Boucetta Views Success of Nonaligned Meeting I 7

SUDAN

PLO Representative Declared Persona Non Grata I 7
23 Feb Departure I 8

TUNISIA

Mzali Comments on Maghreb, Libyan Relations I 8
Joint Communique Issued on Mzali Paris Visit I 9

ISRAEL

Reportage on Shamir's U.S. Talks, Issues N 1
Shamir Interview N 1
Jerusalem Views N 2
'Compensation' Issue [MA'ARIV 22 Feb] N 2
Further Report [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 22 Feb] N 3
Strategic Cooperation [MA'ARIV 23 Feb] N 4
Bilateral Cooperation [MA'ARIV 23 Feb] N 4

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Agricultural Assistance Agreement Signed With GDR R 1
Mengistu, Delegation Leave for CPSU Congress R 1

KENYA

President Moi Leaves on 5-Day Trip to India R 1

SOMALIA

President Orders Pardon for Somalis in Exile R 2

UGANDA

Soviet Instructors To Teach at Makere University R 2
Nairobi Reports Arrests of Opposition Figures R 2

CENTRAL AFRICA

CHAD

Government Pledges Effort To Demilitarize Ndjamena S 1
Libyan Aid Called 'Mini-Marshall Plan,' Detailed S 1

WEST AFRICA

GUINEA

Conkary Report on Cabinet Reshuffle Cited T 1

GUINEA-BISSAU

Foreign Minister Leaves for Soviet Party Congress T 1
Students Protest Cuban Methods; Army Intervenes T 1

IVORY COAST

Party Communique Issued on Salary Reforms T 2

SENEGAL

Senghor Faults Al-Qadhdhafi, Accepts U.S. Troops T 4

UPPER VOLTA

Decree Announces Temporary Lifting of Curfew T 4

SOUTH AFRICA

ANGOLA

Lisbon Reports Agreement With Sao Tome, Principe U 1
Dos Santos Leaves for Moscow Accompanied by Nujoma U 1
Communique Tells of South African Attacks U 1

MOZAMBIQUE

USSR To Train Trade Union Cadre, Study Further Aid U 2
Dos Santos-Led Delegation Arrives in Bulgaria U 2
Four Convicted 'Counterrevolutionaries' Executed U 2

SOUTH AFRICA

Botha Announces Ciskei To Become Independent 4 Dec U 3

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Interested in Reagan's Southern Africa Role U 3

ZIMBABWE

Agreement Establishes Relations With USSR U 3

AGRICULTURE DELEGATIONS ARRIVE FOR UAE CONFERENCE

GF201423 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Delegations participating in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula agricultural ministers conference to be held tomorrow in Abu Dhabi have begun to arrive in the UAE.

The PDRY delegation, led by Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Muhammad Sulayman Nasir [as heard], arrived in the UAE this afternoon.

Iraqi Irrigation Minister and Acting Agriculture and Agrarian Minister 'Abdullah 'Abd al-Wahab Mahmud has arrived in the UAE. He is leading his country's delegation to the conference. Upon arrival he said: The Iraqi delegation will submit a joint working paper to the conference on the promotion of agriculture in Arab countries.

The Kuwaiti Public Works Ministry under secretary, Salim Ibrahim al-Manna'i, has also arrived in the UAE. He is leading his country's delegation to the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula agricultural ministers conference. Upon arrival, the leader of the Kuwaiti delegation said that the conference will discuss a number of important agricultural issues that concern the countries of the region.

The heads of the delegations were received upon arrival by Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Sa'id ar-Raqabani, Agriculture Ministry Under Secretary Hamad Salman and a number of ministry officials.

It is worth noting that the conference, in which delegations from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, YAR, PDRY and the UAE will participate, will study a project for exploiting and preserving the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula waters, the possibilities for a joint economic project for drag fishing, which was prepared by the Gulf food and agriculture organization joint economic committee for the survey and preservation of water, as well as a number of special projects to promote the fishing (industry). It is expected that the YAR delegation will ask that the seventh conference be held in San'a'. The Saudi delegation to the conference arrived yesterday.

Conference Opens 21 Feb

GF211055 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Excerpt] The first session of the sixth conference of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula agriculture ministers opened this morning. The conference is being held under the patronage of the president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, who assigned Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Sa'id ar-Baqbani to represent him at the inauguration of the conference in the Intercontinental Hotel. The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Arab diplomatic envoys.

Second Session

GF220544 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Excerpt] The sixth conference of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula agricultural ministers reconvened this afternoon. Prior to the afternoon session, the ministers held a meeting outside the conference, during which [UAE] Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Sa'id ar-Raqabani was elected conference chairman, a working plan was agreed upon and resolutions on it were adopted.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES ROMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

JN210626 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Last night Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman, received Romanian Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Brothers Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, Hani al-Hasan and Abu Ja'far.

The two sides reviewed international developments particularly the situations in the Middle East and the Gulf and the consequences of the Iraqi-Iranian war. They also discussed the Zionist military escalation against southern Lebanon.

The Romanian delegation reiterated its support for the Palestinian people's just demands, particularly the establishment of their independent state. The Romanian delegation said that Romania will do its best to promote this objective.

The Romanian foreign minister conveyed an oral message from Nicolae Ceausescu to the brother commander in chief.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES IRANIAN MAJLIS DEPUTY SPEAKER

JN210650 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Last night Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman, received deputy speaker of the Iranian Majlis Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Haqani. The meeting was attended by Brothers Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, Hani al-Hasan and Abu at-Tayyib.

Brother Abu 'Ammar and the Iranian delegation reviewed issues of interest to the Palestinian and Iranian revolutions and the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and the Palestinian refugee camps.

The Iranian delegation had arrived in Beirut from Saudi Arabia. The Iranian delegation was received at the airport by Brother Abu at-Tayyib and a Lebanese Government representative.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH COMMUNIST ACTION ORGANIZATION

JN220852 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] At a meeting with the Communist Action Organization command yesterday, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, stated: This meeting with Brother Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the central political council, and his brothers is a continuation of the joint meeting we are holding with our brothers in the Lebanese nationalist movement and a continuation of the meeting I and Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] had with Brother Walid Junblatt in Al-Mukhtarah last week. It is also a continuation of the meetings being held by the higher coordination committee.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: The purpose of these meetings is to confront Israeli-isolationist provocations; the Israeli-isolationist military escalation in southern Lebanon by sea, land and air; and the Zionist enemy leaders' impudent statements that they are preparing for a larger operation than that carried out south of Litani in 1978. Evidence of this is the latest air battle in northern Al-Biqa' between the eagles of the Syrian Air Force and the Zionist enemy.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: These meetings also seek to confront the provocations by U.S. imperialism in trying to throw its weight against the nationalist and progressive forces in our area by using its information trumpets in preparation for carrying out a wide-scale military operation in Lebanon.

Brother Abu 'Ammar praised Palestinian-Lebanese cohesion and said: This cohesion between the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement stems from the strategic links that bind us. Brother Abu 'Ammar added: We in the Palestinian revolution are proud of this strategic relationship with our brothers of the Lebanese nationalist movement and forces. We proceed from the principle of the importance of consolidating Lebanon's territorial integrity and of working for achieving Lebanon's independence and protecting it. This is something which the Lebanese nationalist movement is trying to establish on a national and patriotic basis.

The brother commander in chief placed the Palestinian revolution's potential at the disposal of the Lebanese nationalist movement and pointed out that this matter needs no further proof or confirmation. Our common march has been drenched by the innocent blood of our generous martyrs. Brother Abu 'Ammar said: It suffices the Lebanese nationalist movement that it offered its leader Kamal Junblatt as a martyr for Palestine before being a martyr for Lebanon.

The brother commander in chief wished the nationalist movement success in its attempt to establish a broad Lebanese nationalist front to confront all challenges.

Brother Abu 'Ammar concluded: We at the higher coordination committee appreciate this measure and shall use all our potential for the success of this nationalist and patriotic step, which is not important to Lebanon alone but also to our entire Arab nation.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by Brothers Abu Iyad, Abu Jihad, Abu Salih and Majid Abu Sharar, members of Fatah Central Committee. The meeting was attended on behalf of the Communist Action Organization command by Hikmat al-'Id and Fawwaz Trabulsi.

Brother Muhsin Ibrahim said: The visit constituted not merely a social event, it was a working meeting to discuss the main issues of mutual interest to the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement. Brother Ibrahim added: We discussed how to regulate and consolidate the strategic relations that exist between the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement. He said: We also reviewed the political moves by the nationalist movement to establish the nationalist front which shall include all nationalist parties and all those with concern for maintaining Lebanon as a unified homeland. We have sensed that Brother Abu 'Ammar and his brothers will provide us with their full support because our mutual interest is that Lebanon must regain its unity and have its Arab character reconfirmed and the right of its people to democratic development acknowledged.

Muhsin Ibrahim concluded: The Palestinian revolution command consistently reiterates that it will always be ready and prepared to participate in any positive moves to achieve a Lebanese patriotic stand to confront the fateful Zionist danger and that the Palestinian revolution will not hesitate to provide all that is asked of it for attaining such a stand.

'ARAFAT ACCEPTS INVITATION TO VISIT MOSCOW

NC221019 Paris AFP in English 1002 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Beirut, 22 Feb (AFP)--Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat has accepted an invitation to visit the Soviet Union next month, the Lebanese daily AS-SAFIR indicated today, quoting informed Palestinian sources. He has been prevented through illness from attending the Soviet Communist Party's 26th Congress in Moscow this week. His place at the head of the Palestinian delegation being taken by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department. The delegation left for Moscow yesterday.

BAHRAIN

DEFENSE MINISTER REJECTS INTERFERENCE IN REGION

LD221048 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0718 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 22 Feb (KUNA)--In a statement to the Kuwaiti AS-SIYASAH, published here today, the Bahraini heir apparent and minister of defense, shaykh Hamad Ibn 'Isa al-Khalifah, denied that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman have formed a Cooperative Council in an attempt to "absolve" themselves from serving the Arab causes and keep away from them.

Shaykh Hamad criticized "the weakness" of the U.S. policy in the face of the USSR, adding: "We look forward to the need for creating a balance between the two superpowers in order to preserve an international balance and thus keep away the shadow of a third world war which could take place because of any faults in the superpowers' calculations and equations. I believe the existence of such a balance would serve peace and render international relations open for dealing with all forces and powers in a neutral atmosphere free from axes and cold war."

Shaykh Hamad said that Gulf security is not only confined to the military aspect but goes beyond that to the realization of "an economic, social and human security." He rejected all interference by any foreign power in the affairs of the region and declared that the Gulf countries will resist such interference with all the power they possess.

He rejected the call for an international conference to discuss neutrality in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf saying that such a call "could mean a call for the protection of our region by one power against the other. Our acceptance of this will demand from us to seek still greater power and greater means of defense to preserve and safeguard this neutrality." He added: "The real basis for any neutrality must stem from within the region, that is from within our own power and not through the power of any other country which wants to impose on us a neutrality and try to protect it."

It is recalled that the USSR has proposed a plan for guaranteeing the region's neutrality. France and India have also called for an international conference to discuss the neutralization of the region, which is of strategic importance to the world.

Shaykh Hamad pointed out that any military plan for the defense of the region should be based on the capabilities of "close" Arab countries as well as the capabilities of the Gulf countries themselves because the region has "numerous limitations [mahdudiyat] which include human force, huge wealth and spaciousness of land." [as received]

OMAN

OMAN, MALDIVES ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

LD210934 Muscat Domestic Service indArabic 1300 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Summary] The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Maldives have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE FAHD DISCUSSES DOMESTIC, FOREIGN POLICY

LD222056 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Interview granted by Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to Swedish newsmen accompanying visiting King Carl Gustav of Sweden on 22 February in Riyadh]

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Feb (SPA)--[Question] How long will the kingdom continue to produce oil at the rate of 10 million barrels a day?

[Answer] In fact, our production as a whole is based on contributing to easing tension in the world since the halt in the flow of Iraqi and Iranian oil to Europe and those states which have contracts to buy oil from those two countries.

[Question] When the conflict between Iraq and Iran ends will you reduce production, and if so to what extent?

[Answer] That depends on the international markets and the extent of requirements for oil. Naturally, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to keep its oil in the ground until it is needed.

[Question] If you produce more than you need, will your revenue also be more than you need?

[Answer] No. Any money the kingdom has is spent at home. As is well known, the kingdom is considered as a large continent by virtue of its surface area and it needs large sums of money to spend at home on agriculture, highways, hospitals, schools, towns and villages. A cross-country flight from south to north of Saudi territory on board a boeing 707 takes over 2.5 hours. That territory includes towns, villages and deserts. The truth is that they are remotely situated and hence arises the need to link them with each other and to provide them with services and necessary amenities. There are well over 100 Swedish firms operating in the kingdom. Ask them what is happening in these vast areas.

[Question] How far are you prepared to go to supply the world with its oil needs despite the continuation of the Palestinian problem and the issue of Jerusalem?

[Answer] As regards oil I believe that I have answered this in the first question. As for the problem of Palestine, that is a problem which concerns all the Arabs and the entire free world. The Palestinian people are still usurped from their rights and these rights must return to them so that they can be free to exercise self-determination, decide their own future and establish their own independent state, which is their lawful right.

[Question] Does this mean that you will not use oil as a weapon despite the continuing existence of the problem, despite your call for jihad and despite the resolution of the Mecca summit on Palestine?

[Answer] Oil is a vital commodity to the world. But [when] somebody is pushed to the limit he could use any weapon.

[Question] Does this mean that the time to use it is still far off?

[Answer] One must never run ahead of events.

[Question] Will the kingdom maintain its price of oil at $32 per barrel until the next OPEC conference?

[Answer] As everybody knows, the kingdom is trying to set a limit to oil prices, to stop them from rising. Naturally, as a state, we cannot do this singlehandedly because the other oil states are in a majority. But for our part, we will do our best not to raise oil prices.

[Question] Your Royal Highness, the Saudi defense budget is very high. Compared to the population of the kingdom it is considered the highest in the world. What is the reason for this and who is your main enemy today?

[Answer] If our defense budget is high, this is due to the high cost of the weapons which we currently purchase. If states sell to us at a reasonable cost, our defense budget will not be so high. The defense budget does not hinder us from carrying out our other duties, such as civilian duties.

[Question] Do you prefer to diversify the sources of your weapons?

[Answer] Naturally, we are not restricted to any one source.

[Question] Do you have any plans to buy weapons from Sweden, which is regarded as one of the main manufacturers of weapons?

[Answer] If it sells to us then we welcome it.

[Question] Which weapons would you like to have?

[Answer] We need all types of weapons because we want to have an army which can defend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

[Question] What is the opinion of your Royal Highness of President Reagan and the new U.S. administration?

[Answer] As I imagine, and according to the statements we hear, the new U.S. administration understands the international problems and the problem of the Arab nation. This is how it appears to me personally. The most important thing is that Reagan's statements are strong and they place opinions in specific and clear frameworks and this is something which is required of the United States.

[Question] What is your opinion of the rumors about bringing in 20,000 soldiers from Pakistan and placing them under the service of your army?

[Answer] This is untrue. The minister of defense has already refuted this several times, but regrettably the international press still reiterates it despite the fact that this thing does not exist and is untrue.

[Question] Does Your Highness expect Mr Reagan to apply pressure on the Israelis so that they become reasonable over resolving the Palestinian problem?

[Answer] We do not want anyone to apply pressure but we want the U.S. President or the head of any European state to be just and fair. We as Arabs do not want anything except justice and fairness. We have rights. Israel is wrong in its conduct. If we say we want President Reagan to apply pressure we appear as Arabs who have no rights. The Palestinian people have the right to return to their homeland and establish their own state and choose whatever road they wish for their own future. That is their legitimate right. There are resolutions which have been issued calling for Israel's withdrawal from the lands it had occupied in 1967. Why are these resolutions not implemented?

[Question] Does Israel rely on the fact that there are Arab differences which might work to its advantage?

[Answer] No, that is wrong. That is a wrong belief. Arab differences (?are caused) by the effort to find the most appropriate way to face the current situation. The Arab nation must arrive at a unified stand as an Arab nation, God willing. As Arabs we will achieve this, God willing. Arab solidarity is certain and the Arab nation will be as one state.

[Question] Your Royal Highness Prince Fahd, one of the things which one finds strange is what happened 2 days ago when some U.S. Congressmen asked the U.S. President not to sanction equipment and spares which you requested for the F-15 planes which the kingdom bought from the United States. They also demanded the rejection of the Saudi request because it is harmful to Israel. Is this just and fair?

[Answer] The U.S. senator who led this campaign and members of the U.S. Congress are supposed to leave the matter to the U.S. administration, which should be just and fair toward the Arabs and Israel.

[Question] Is this regarded as bias?

[Answer] We regard it as bias against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. That is why the kingdom buys sophisticated weapons from any country which sells them. These weapons will be a deterrent to any who might think of attacking the kingdom. Therefore, as I said to you earlier, we are not restricted. We buy weapons from any country. As I see it, President Reagan and his administration will not submit without good reason to a group of congressmen who want to support Israel, as this would be regarded as a bias in favor of Israel and against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

[Question] On your mentioning of the freedom to buy weapons, does this include the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Why not, if the need arose? If we found that the American and European doors were closed to us, why not? The purchase of weapons from the Soviet Union means the purchase of equipment and not ideologies.

[Question] There is a great difference between the Iran of the shah and Iran since the shah. Could you explain to us the aspects of resemblance or difference between the circumstances of the shah's Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] There is no resemblance whatever. Indeed, there is no comparison. Ruling in the kingdom is derived first from God and second from the people of the kingdom. You do not see or notice that we have protocols or restrictions between the ruler and the subjects; therefore, the difference is clear between the situation in Iran in the past and the situation in the kingdom. The ruling body in the kingdom had never felt at any time that it is different from the other citizens, whom we consider ourselves a part of. We have no distinction except God's grace and the confidence of the citizens in us.

[Question] Will you refuse to accept delivery of the F-15 planes if they were not supplied with the additional equipment?

[Answer] I cannot run ahead of events because that might lead us into making an inappropriate appraisal. There is great hope in President Reagan and his administration.

PRINCE FAHD GIVES NATIONAL INDUSTRY WEEK SPEECH

LD211408 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1054 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 21 Feb (SPA)--His Royal Highness Prince Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, has stressed Saudi Arabia's efforts to build a suitable foundation for the establishment of a modern and developed Saudi industry to achieve progress and prosperity for the people of the kingdom. His royal highness, in an address he made today on the occasion of national industry week, expressed his appreciation for all those who contribute useful and fruitful work to realize the targets of industrial development, whether in the government or private sectors.

Here follows his royal highness' address:

I thank God who helped the government of His Majesty King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in achieving what deserves to be celebrated by us, that is building a suitable foundation for a modern and developed Saudi industry in an endeavor to realize progress and prosperity for the people of Saudi Arabia.

The Ministry of Industry and Electricity has issued permits for industrial projects which it is sure will be useful.

The number of existing producing factories has reached more than 1,000 and the money invested in them is estimated at 26 billion riyals.

The ministry is also building industrial towns and providing them with facilities and services, and then rents them out to the investors to set up their projects and also to house their workers close to the factories for a nominal rent. The total area of the industrial towns at the end of the present year amounts to 14 million square meters, distributed over various parts of the country. The ministry is also offering industrial investors tax and customs exemptions, provides them with protection, pays training subsidies, and monitors and encourages the development of national industry.

Realizing the important role of the industrial development sector in Saudi Arabia, his majesty's government has set up the Saudi fund for industrial development, which offers loans for industrial investors up to 50 percent of the capital invested. The value of the loans offered by the fund have reached 6.8 billion riyals, from which 577 industrial projects have benefited. It also offers technical and economic advice to the industrial investors.

In the field of basic industries the royal authorities for Al-Jubayl and Yanbu' have taken tangible steps in fulfilling the basic preparations in both. The Saudi company for basic industries, set up by the state, has completed signing the partnership agreements for most of the basic industrial projects in the iron, steel, fertilizer and petrochemical spheres. In fact it has started to set up these industries in Al-Jubayl and Yanbu' and has taken good steps in training the necessary Saudi labor force to administer and operate its projects.

While our celebration of national industry week is a suitable occasion to review our calculations to encourage success and to avoid mistakes, on the other hand it is a good opportunity to see by our own eyes and feel with our own hands the fruits of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the efforts of the people in this sphere. I also find it a suitable opportunity to extend profound thanks to all those who contributed a useful and fruitful effort to realize the targets of industrial development, whether in the government or private sectors, and to ask Almighty God to grant us success in fulfilling our duty in the manner that He wishes and desires.

In Riyadh, His Royal Highness Prince Salman Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the governor of Riyadh region, at midday today opened national industry week, which will go on for 5 days.

OFFICIAL EXPECTS U.S. TO COMPLETE F-15 ARMAMENT

GF181239 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 17 Feb 81 pp 1, 22

['Awad al-Qahtani dispatch]

[Text] According to a responsible source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation, Saudi Arabia does not expect the new U.S. Government to oppose implementation of the agreement to complete the arming of F-15 fighter planes. The obstacles pro-Israeli circles are using to block completion of this armament are tactics Saudi Arabia has become accustomed to expect from the Israelis. When they want to obtain aid and assistance for Israel, they resort to raising issues such as the F-15.

In a statement to AL-JAZIRAH, the source said: It is known that Saudi Arabia has concluded a contract for the delivery of this aircraft, and Saudi Arabia has no doubt that the United States will not hesitate in fulfilling its part of the contract. It is premature to expect any developments regarding the armament of these planes.

Answering a question by AL-JAZIRAH on the presence of foreign military experts in the Saudi armed forces, the source said: The foreign military experts in the Saudi armed forces do not hold key positions, because their role is purely advisory. The key positions in all sections of the armed forces are held by Saudi officers, who alone have the authority to make decisions.

The source added: Every country that imports arms needs experts for a temporary period so its men can assimilate the arms. Even advanced countries have to call in experts and advisers. Expertise and advice are part of the transfer of science and technology.

The sources declared: We stress to everyone that experts and advisers are in the Saudi armed forces in an advisory capacity. They do not have the right to make decisions. I hope their role will not be misunderstood. Taking advice from an expert does not bind us to anything, and we only implement what is suitable and useful for the progress of our armed forces.

Referring to plans to arm the Saudi armed forces, the source said: The arming of our forces is proceeding according to a well-studied plan that will enable Saudi Arabia to have sophisticated weapons to defend its territory. We are a country that does not want war and is not hostile to any country. The arms we possess are for defending our territory, because self-defense requires weapons.

UAE

PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES DEATH OF AL-QAIWAYN RULER

JN211405 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1355 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Dubayy, 21 Feb (GNA)--His Highness Shaykh Rashid Ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, UAE vice president and prime minister, has announced that His Highness Shaykh Ahmad Ibn Rashid al-Mu'alla, UAE Supreme Council member and ruler of Umm al-Qaiwayn Emirate, died this afternoon.

This was announced on Dubayy radio a short while ago.

Successor Chosen

JN220729 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0705 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Umm al-Qaiwayn, 22 Feb (ENA)--The Umm al-Qaiwayn ruling family has pledged allegiance to His Highness Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla as ruler of the emirate of Umm al-Qaiwayn and successor to his father.

22 Feb Funeral

GF221330 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Excerpt] The funeral of Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla has been held following prayers at the great mosque in Umm al-Qayiwayn.

The funeral began at 1000 today and was attended by the vice president and prime minister, Shaykh Rashid Ibn Sa'id al-Maktum; Shaykh Sultan Ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, Supreme Council member and Ash-Shariqah ruler; Shaykh Ahmad Ibn Muhammad ash-Sharqi, Supreme Council member and Al-Fujairah ruler; Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Zayid, heir apparent and deputy commander of the armed forces; shaykhs; ministers; senior military and police officers; Arab and foreign diplomatic representatives; Gulf and Arab delegations; and a large number of private citizens.

MUBARAK VIEWS EGYPTIAN POLICY ON MIDEAST ISSUES

LD201037 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 16 Feb 81 pp 12-14

[Interview granted by Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak to Muhammad Zayn in Cairo on 12 February]

[Excerpts] Question: Mr Vice President, is Camp David worth the estrangement that has led to Egypt's leaving the Arab world?

Husni Mubarak: Whoever reads the Camp David [agreements] and knows the circumstances under which we arrived at them and who thinks logically and objectively will realize what has happened. Camp David is the first commitment ever by Israel. Has anybody prior to Camp David been able to secure from Israel a commitment to withdraw and to remove the Israeli occupation from the Palestinian territories? We have certainly never seen any power that has been able to do so.

The October War Was in Order To Abolish Defeat and Move Toward Victory

Before the October war President as-Sadat tried to do the impossible to restore the occupied territories. He spoke to the Americans but they did not show any readiness. They used to tell the president: "You are a defeated man and an action such as this needs a victorious man. If you talk from a position of defeat then you must make concessions." We had nothing to make concessions over; our land was usurped, so what concessions were they demanding? In the end the president found that there was no avoiding a military operation in order to prove ourselves and our presence to the enemy, for otherwise we would not be held in any respect. So the October war was launched. But after that they tried to eliminate the effects and results of the October war. So what was to be done? Should we leave it at that? The president opened the Suez Canal and thus "cornered" them. He said we would open the Suez Canal to international shipping while the Egyptian forces were still on the other bank of the canal and after the disengagement of forces. The Israeli forces would have to withdraw. Following this decision the Israeli prime minister announced the withdrawal of forces. I think you recall this.

Then came the Cairo conference and other conferences. The talks on the second disengagement continued. What we suffered then and what our Syrian brothers showed to us in this regard were not encouraging for a solution. Then we asked the question: What is the alternative? When we concluded the first disengagement of forces the president was strongly attacked. The president went to Syria and had a meeting at the airport with the Syrian president, who brought with him all the Ba'thist leaders. They sat in the airport for hours discussing things. They did not want to act logically at all. Well, should we continue discussions in this manner? Should we close the subject without achieving anything? Well, what is the objective? We must take back our land and find a solution for the Palestine problem. Well, we were in a state of war which did not achieve anything for us. We can achieve nothing through war with Israel. Impossible. You know the reasons for this. The two superpowers are striving to preserve Israel. We acted on this basis. From whom should we obtain arms? Let us be realistic and speak frankly: Who would give us arms?

However, we began talking about [the] Geneva [conference]. I went to Syria in order to discuss the matter and informed them about what we had received from our foreign minister there. The Syrians had information from their own foreign minister but they denied it. Disagreements then occurred. Well, what was to be the solution? Should we remain inactive after losing Sinai, the Golan, and all the land? In the meantime neither Syria nor the Arabs had any alternative or any solution. The president thought of a shorter way than this and worked out a comprehensive solution for the crisis. I was with him in this step by step. When the president wanted to think he would say: I want to think. We would sit together and talk and discuss things straightforwardly.

The [peace] initiative was taken. Kuwait was one of the first countries to attack us. We do not know why.

In any case, the initiative was launched. After that you saw what happened with President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative. We gave greater prominence to the Palestine problem and publicized it further. President Carter sent a message to President as-Sadat telling him that inter-Arab disagreements are much deeper than Arab-Israeli disagreements.

After that, the differences over Geneva continued. President as-Sadat suggested sending a unified Arab delegation but the Syrians refused. They said: We will send a delegation but we will not stay together in the same hotel. Why such problems? Were they afraid of disagreements and why this fear? We agreed that we would play the game together: One Arab delegation would adopt a hardline and another delegation would not. But this was to no avail. This was why President Carter said that inter-Arab differences are much deeper than Arab-Israeli differences.

I would like to ask: What benefit would we derive from keeping the problem in a state of stalemate, in an "ugly" situation like this. When the president found that the road was going to remain blocked he launched his initiative. President as-Sadat told the Syrian president that the American President could do nothing without the backing of U.S. public opinion and European public opinion; he needed their strong backing in order to be able to take a bold decision on the problem. The Palestine problem benefited tremendously from the initiative and won publicity that billions of dollars would have been unable to win for it.

Going back to your question as to whether Camp David is or is not worth the estrangement.

In our view we did not reach the Camp David agreements so that the Arabs would sever their relations with us. It was not we who wanted this. But that was what the Arabs wanted, prompted by other powers, under one circumstance or another, which there is no need to explain because they have already been explained. We are very saddened by the present Arab situation. We are saddened by the Arab actions because they are not in their interests.

The Egyptian People Will Not Allow As-Sadat to Resign

Question: Mr Vice President, so far you have not gone to Israel. Your not going there has been given different interpretations. Have you deliberately not gone there or is there an agreement between you and President as-Sadat on this so that if there are problems with Israel and President as-Sadat is forced to step down you will become the president of the republic, in which case you might decide to return to the Arab world on the grounds that Your Excellency will be more acceptable to the Arab world?

Husni Mubarak laughed a great deal over this question and amazement showed on his face.

Husni Mubarak: We have not given any thought at all to this matter and this is the first time that I have heard about it. I have read something similar to this in the Israeli newspaper, the Jerusalem POST. I am sure that nothing like this will happen and President as-Sadat will not step down from the presidency. Should anything like this happen we will tell him 'no'. President as-Sadat in our view is a great leader and has the power of persuasion. He is a man of politics. The whole world regards him as a statesman. Should he get tired we would tell him to sit down and work with us. The whole Egyptian people, from Alexandria to Wadi Halfa, will not allow President as-Sadat to resign. You probably heard that when we sought to amend the constitution we tried to calm down the situation but to no avail. There was a great and spontaneous outcry demanding that As-Sadat be president for life.

The reason that I have not so far been to Israel has nothing to do with this question. I have been busy and have had no time to go. I am not afraid of visiting Israel and I do not care whether or not I am accepted at the Arab, American, or even European level.

Many Palestinians Support As-Sadat

Question: Do you believe that some of the Palestinians support As-Sadat's steps?

Husni Mubarak: Very many. The messages we received from them say so; they praise our solution and criticize their own media. This is strange. But I can assure you that there are no contacts. Look at their position now, since they have abandoned Egypt. The rejectionist states have been able to rally the moderate states around them. The president and I are very saddened by this situation. They went to the Baghdad summit and decided to allocate $9 billion for us, I believe. What should we do with this money? What about the initiative and U.S. public opinion? What should we tell them? Should we tell them that we would sell ourselves for $9 billion? Let us be frank: What could we do with this sum? Would it buy us arms in order to strike at Israel? Who would sell us the arms? The Soviet Union? When the Soviet Union hears that we have received $9 billion from the Arab countries it will triple or quadruple the price of its arms as it did with Syria when Algeria picked up the tab. Moscow told them: "We have increased the price of aircraft because your money comes from abroad. We used to sell to you at a special price because you have no money but now that Algeria will be paying for you, we will up the price. The Soviet Union will not give the offensive weapons in order to liberate your land." The late Soviet Defense Minister Grechko once told Syrian Defense Minister General Talas: "If you liberate your land you will no longer need us." Who will give us what we want? The Americans? Will they give us arms to fight Israel? We know that this will never happen. We will not accept $9 billion first because it is a small sum that is "neither here nor there," and second, we refuse to sell ourselves for this sum of money and go down on record as traitors, because the ones who would pay us this money will be the first to record this in the annals of history.

On the Egyptian Role in Defending the Gulf

Question: Mr Vice President, let us move on to another point connected with the Gulf states. We would like to know the limits of the Egyptian role in defending the Gulf. This question which preoccupies politicians has several aspects. First, where do you believe the threat to the Gulf region lies? Secondly, it is being reiterated that the new U.S. administration, or rather the new U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger, believes in the need to establish fixed military bases in the region, especially in Sinai and the Red Sea.

Has the United States notified you of such request and what would be your answer if it is put to you in the future?

Husni Mubran: First, under the joint Arab [defense] pact we subscribe to joint defense. We are certain that any danger threatening the Arab countries threatens us as well and, therefore, we will not hesitate to defend any Arab state that is threatened or endangered. We are ready to give all we can in order to defend the countries that are threatened. As to how this is to be done, it is left to the military experts to consider it. President as-Sadat has said this more than once. This is proved by the fact that when we found that the war between Iraq and Iran was beginning to expand and broaden we agreed to give facilities to the United States without its asking for them. We told them that we were ready to give them any facilities they might need in order to defend any Arab or Islamic state. That we would give them facilities at our bases for a specific purpose and for a specific term. But we never sell our bases and we do not allow any foreign flag to be hoisted over our bases. This can never happen. As for the other part of your question regarding the source or danger of threat I would say that you are well aware where the threat originates.

I told the vice president: Your views are certainly more accurate.

Laughing, Husni Mubarak replied: But they are "grim" views.

Pointing to the Iraq-Iran war, he said that it constitutes a major question mark. He said: If communism reaches out there and pounces it will then pose the greatest threat to the Gulf, especially in view of the existing situation in some of the Red Sea states and in view of what is happening in Libya. All this forms a ring. The danger will come from Libya; it will spread to Chad and Ethiopia and later to Sudan; after that it will reach the Red Sea and threaten Somalia and will enter Aden and threaten the Sultanate of Oman. If it comes from Iran that would be the greatest catastrophe.

At the instructions of President as-Sadat I have warned our friends in the Gulf and told them: "Wake up, communism is rolling over our land." There are many incidents whose sequence is predetermined. We are afraid that the situation in the Gulf will explode. Unfortunately, this is something terrible and nobody in the Gulf wants to heed this advice. The UAE is open and from there the communists enter Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait--they are "brimming" the danger that this group presents and which encircles the Arabs like a belt.

President as-Sadat said that we will absolutely not provide bases or facilities in Sinai; Sinai and its installations will remain Egyptian. Its bases will be thoroughly Egyptian and we will absolutely not accept joint installations in Sinai. As-Sadat said so to Carter and the congressional delegation which visited Cairo. He told them so. He told them there will be absolutely no bases in Sinai. But we can give them temporary facilities until the danger to the Islamic countries recedes. But not a base with a flag on it.

Question: Mr Vice President, does Egypt object to a noncommital dialogue with the PLO?

Husni Mubarak: How?

Question: That is, to begin a dialogue with the PLO since you recognize it as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, bearing in mind, of course, that Yasir 'Arafat stands with the countries opposed to Camp David.

Husni Mubarak: He is adopting such a stand because it is dictated to him. Yasir 'Arafat used to agree with the president here on a certain stand and then when he went to Beirut he would come under pressure and deny what he said.

Is it conceivable that we should begin a dialogue with the PLO? A noncommital one? They have nothing to be committed to. They have sold themselves. Dialogue with whom?

Question: You mean they have no choice.

Husni Mubarak: Yes, that's right. Here you have the recording machine and let us talk frankly. This Yasir 'Arafat agrees with the president on something and then after he leaves he says 'no.' Pressure brought to bear on him, that is, by Hafiz al-Asad. Once Al-Asad put 'Arafat in jail. He himself told me that he was put in jail in Syria. As-sa'Iqah [organization], for example, belongs to Syria. Libya has an organization of its own and so does Iraq. This situation is absolutely inconceivable. The ones who are really suffering are the West Bank and Gaza Strip citizens.

Question: Mr Vice President, the Camp David agreements have met with many difficulties because of Israeli insistence on building settlements in the occupied territories. Do you believe that negotiations will make progress if a Labor government comes to office?

Husni Mubarak: I would like to tell you something: Do not imagine that any government will put in a "good" word for you these days. Everybody is bidding for the elections. Did you see what happened in the U.S. elections? Did you hear what Carter said about Israel during the elections and what he said after he came to power? We now expect nothing. We will negotiate with any government the Israeli people may choose and we will fear nothing.

Question: Observers believe that the Labor Party will be better than Begin.

Husni Mubarak: If Begin comes, or Peres or any other person, we will negotiate with him. We negotiate with governments. Begin might be adopting a hard line now because of the elections, this might be true. If Peres comes, all well and good, as long as we have agreed on the principles of peace. We are bound to meet with difficulties. The problem has existed for 300 [figure as published] years. Can we now push a button and end the problem? The problem cannot be resolved without encountering difficulties.

'ALI GIVES TV INTERVIEW ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE

NC212001 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has affirmed that the time has come for the establishment of a provisional Palestinian government so that its existence will be conducive to the participation of the Palestinians in deciding their final status and in unifying their ranks.

'Ali also affirmed that President Anwar as-Sadat's proposal on the formation of such a government was not new, that this matter was raised a long time ago and that the aim of its establishment will be to obviate all pressures on it from Syria as a result of the Palestinian presence in Syria and Lebanon.

This was contained in an interview which the deputy prime minister and former minister gave to the Arab television and which it will broadcast tonight. In this interview 'Ali described Egypt's explanation for the formation of the provisional Palestinian government called for by President as-Sadat.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that such a government will give new dimensions to the representation of all groups of Palestinians, including the Palestinians who left Palestine in 1948 and 1967, in order to make their unification possible in the final settlement as contained in the Camp David agreement.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that when autonomy is established and negotiations start for a final settlement, the provisional government must be in existence so as to represent all the trends and solve all aspects of the issue.

'Ali said that Egypt does not believe that the establishment of a provisional government will violate Camp David, on the one hand, and on the other it will be an action that will pave the way for a final solution of all aspects of the issue. The PLO may also have studies on the establishment of the provisional government; as far as I know, an agreement exists on the establishment of such a government and differences concern the timing only.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained that some Palestinians believe that the provisional government should be established immediately while others believe that it should be established when the first signs of a comprehensive solution for the Palestinian issue begin to appear so that there will be no differences or conflicts as far as its formation is concerned.

Asked whether a date had been set for a meeting between President as-Sadat and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: All I can say is that President as-Sadat's visit will be fixed through consultations between Cairo and Washington. These consultations are continuing, but the date of the visit has not yet been fixed.

Asked about the U.S. reaction to the European initiative, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The cards for the solution of the Palestinian issue still are as the United States has declared, namely that the Camp David accords will remain the basis for the solution of the Palestinian issue. The United States, acting as a full partner, will continue to have a great influence and to hold the cards of the solution.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali noted that the U.S. efforts accelerated the peace efforts and brought about the Camp David accords after a long period during which the issue was put on the shelf. He also noted that the 1973 war, President as-Sadat's initiative and the Camp David accords helped to accelerate the peace efforts. It was also thanks to the U.S. participation in the solution that we achieved what we have achieved.

Regarding the reaction of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, as well as the Israeli opposition, to the European initiative, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The Israeli Foreign Ministry had reservations about President as-Sadat's proposal for the formation of a provisional government, saying that the formation of such a government would conflict with the Camp David accords. However, there is no contradiction between the Camp David accords and the formation of a provisional government, particularly since the Camp David accords have called on the Palestinians to participate. Moreover, the Palestinian issue will be solved in all its aspects. Therefore, there is no contradiction whatsoever between Camp David and the formation of a provisional government.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali noted that the Israeli opposition wanted the Jordanian option as an alternative or a way to implement the Camp David accords. He said: We oppose the Jordanian option, because it will not solve all aspects of the Palestinian issue.

Asked whether it was true that Menahem Begin had undertaken a positive initiative concerning Palestinian autonomy and whether Egypt welcomed such an initiative, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The autonomy talks are still continuing on the technical level, although they are almost considered suspended because of different interpretations of Camp David on the part of Israel, on one hand, and Egypt and the United States on the other. He added: However, if Israel has anything that will promote the talks we welcome their continuation, if there is a change in Israel's concept of full autonomy.

Replying to a question Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed that Egypt has enough technical cadres, enabling it to establish and operate the nuclear stations it intends to build. He explained that Egypt has many scientists of technology who are working in various countries of the world and that when the nuclear stations are established in Egypt, their assistance will be sought so as to participate in their country's modern advancement.

The foreign minister denied that Egypt and Zaire had agreed that Zaire would give uranium to Egypt, saying that Egypt did not need this uranium because its agreements with the states that will be giving it the nuclear stations will also give it the necessary fuel to operate them.

The foreign minister answered a question on President as-Sadat's recent visit to France, affirming that the visit brought warmth to the relations between the two countries. He said that France ascertained and completely approves of Egypt's strategy on peace in the Middle East.

In his interview the foreign minister touched upon President as-Sadat's visit to Luxembourg and his speech to the European Parliament. He said that all the European countries appreciated the visit, which was one of President as-Sadat's most successful visits. He affirmed that President as-Sadat's speech has a special significance in view of the fact that it comes at the same time as a European initiative and has given clearer dimensions to this initiative and a comprehensive solution in the Middle East.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained that President as-Sadat's visit to the European Parliament did not mean that he wanted the European initiative to replace Camp David, because the European initiative is an addition to the peace efforts and not a substitute for Camp David.

At the end of his interview Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed that any other initiatives, such as a Latin American one will only boost the peace efforts and will be a manifestation of world public opinion on the Palestinian issue.

MENA REPORTS KREISKY MET 'PALESTINIAN PERSONALITY'

NC211002 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0857 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)--During his recent visit to Egypt, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky met with a known Palestinian personality in 'Abidin Palace. They discussed President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative and Egypt's role, as well as efforts to establish peace.

In publishing this in its Sunday edition, the Cairo magazine OCTOBER adds that Kreisky stressed to the Palestinian personality that President as-Sadat's initiative has caused a tremendous change in world public opinion toward the Palestinian question. Kreisky said that President as-Sadat's visit to Luxembourg has a historic dimension and that it will go into the annals of history. He added that this visit has scored an unprecedented success in the interests of the peace cause, particularly the appeal he made at the European Parliament suggesting mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO and that Europe should embark on a new initiative.

OCTOBER magazine adds that in his discussion with the Palestinian personality Kreisky reaffirmed his full support for the formation of a provisional Palestinian government-in-exile and stated that he knows well the pressures the PLO is being subjected to in Lebanon as well as the pressures to not move in the direction of peace.

Kreisky said that 'Arafat lives restricted and chained, and that he cannot address the world public opinion.

Kreisky warned against freezing the present situation, saying that the PLO is heading toward a division of influence between the two superpowers. He added that this would be the greatest danger facing the Arabs and the Palestinians.

OCTOBER goes on to say that during the meeting the Palestinian personality expressed appreciation for Kreisky's efforts to establish peace. He also said that Israel would not recognize the rights of the Palestinian people, not even if the PLO were to recognize Israel's right to exist.

The Palestinian personality added: If the Israeli Labor Party were to win and assume power, its leader Shim'on Peres would still prefer the Jordanian option--Allon's old plan, which the Palestinians reject.

ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

NC211820 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)--An Italian military delegation headed by Defense Minister Lelio Lagorio arrived in Cairo this evening aboard a private plane on an official 5-day visit at the invitation of the minister of defense and war production and commander in chief of the armed forces, Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi.

The Italian defense minister and his delegation were met at the airport by Central Military District Commander Maj Gen Muhammad 'Atiyah, some senior armed forces commanders and Italian Ambassador in Cairo Flio Giuffrida.

Meeting With Badawi

NC221315 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Excerpt] This morning Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi, minister of defense and war production and the commander in chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces, received Italian Defense Minister Lelio Lagorio and the delegation accompanying him at the general command.

They held a round of talks that was attended by the minister of state for war production, Dr Jamal as-Sayyid. During the meeting Badawi said that Italy is a friendly country and linked to Egypt with close ties.

The Italian defense minister said: We are looking forward to further bilateral cooperation.

FOREIGN MINISTRY MAKES STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR TREATY

NC221453 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)--The Egyptian Foreign Ministry today issued a press statement on the occasion of President Anwar as-Sadat's endorsement of the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty. The statement stresses that the president's endorsement of the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty, after completing the consitutional measures in its regard, is considered an important step by Egypt toward the stabilization of security and peace in the region and toward opening the horizons of nuclear technology for the prosperity and welfare of the Egyptian people and the realization of their hope for economic and social progress.

The statement says: Egypt's endorsement of the nonproliferation treaty confirms Egypt's commitment to the Middle East region becoming a nuclear weapons free zone, a matter which the UN General Assembly has unanimously approved on the basis of an Egyptian initiative that was approved by all states in the region.

This positive step by Egypt aims at avoiding the useless dissipation of the scientific and human potentials of this region that has suffered long from the calamities of wars and disputes and at avoiding dragging it to the nuclear arms race which would threaten its peoples with the worst consequences.

Egypt will immediately hold intensive contacts with several states to reap the fruits of this step in the field of the peaceful utilization of the nuclear energy.

'IZZAT IBRAHIM RETURNS TO BAGHDAD FROM AMMAN

JN201739 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA)--'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, returned here tonight following a 2-day visit to Jordan. Prior to his departure from Amman, Ibrahim stated that he conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn the Iraqi leadership's viewpoints on various pan-Arab issues and the common march between the two fraternal countries of Iraq and Jordan. He said that viewpoints were in agreement on all the topics discussed, enhancing our confidence and faith in the future of the common march. He asserted that Iraq and Jordan shoulder basic responsibilities in facing the problems and difficulties through which the Arab nation is passing.

TAWFIQ'S 6-DAY VISIT TO ROMANIA, HUNGARY REPORTED

For reportage on the talks and meetings held during the visit to Romania and Hungary by Revolution Command Council Member and Minister of Industry and Minerals Tahri Tawfiq, see the 19 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

MINISTER TAWFIQ RETURNS FROM ROMANIA, HUNGARY

JN210906 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA)--Tahri Tawfiq, Revolution Command Council member and minister of industry and minerals, returned here last night following a 6-day visit to Romania and Hungary. He said that his talks with the Romanian and Hungarian officials dealt with joint industrial cooperation and with the means to develop such cooperation. He added that he had sensed a definite desire by the two countries' officials to expand cooperation with Iraq in various fields.

JORDANIAN LABOR MINISTER DEPARTS AFTER TALKS

JN172004 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Feb 81

[Text] Jordanian Labor Minister Dr Jawad al-'Anani left Baghdad this evening following a 3-day visit to the country. While here, the Jordanian minister held talks with Bakr Mahmud Rasul, minister of labor and social affairs, as well as with other ministry officials. The talks between the two sides centered on means to further expand the existing cooperation between the two countries' ministries in the spheres of work, workers and social security.

Dr al-'Anani also signed an agreement under which Iraq will offer a loan of 1 million Iraqi dinars to the Jordanian social security organization to meet the basic requirements of social security in fraternal Jordan.

He was seen off by Bakr Mahmud Rasul, minister of labor and social affairs, and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

RAMADAN MEETS PRC AMBASSADOR ON ECONOMIC TIES

JN161730 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 16 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, this evening received PRC Ambassador in Baghdad Hou Yefeng. Ramadan and the ambassador reviewed bilateral relations and the means to boost them in all fields. They also discussed the possibility of participation by Chinese companies in implementing national development plan projects. Prospects of expanding bilateral trade were also discussed.

FOUR SYRIAN SABOTEURS REPORTEDLY HELD IN JORDAN

JN180926 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Feb 81

[Text] Amman--As part of the ill-reputed role being played by Hafiz al-Asad's regime in the Arab region, a group of Al-Asad's mercenaries tried to infiltrate Jordanian territory across the border to carry out acts of sabotage. Reports from Amman say that the Jordanian authorities have apprehended four Al-Asad regime mercenaries carrying explosives and other material to conduct acts of sabotage in Jordan. Al-Asad's regime has recently been resorting to such acts in an attempt to bolster his collapsing regime in the wake of the popular upheaval in Syria against it.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES 20-22 FEB

Communique No 253

JN201621 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA)--The valiant Iraqi forces killed 56 of the racist Persian enemy in their operational sectors last night and today. Communique No 253 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening said that our forces destroyed four enemy vehicles, two field guns, one excavator, one observation post, two boats, and one fuel tank. The text of the communique is as follows: Communique No 253 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: The result of our armed forces' activities last night and today in their operational sectors is as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Four were killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
B. Our units engaged an enemy concentration in the Gilan-e Gharb region and forced it to flee, killing 15 and destroying 1 field gun.
C. Three were also killed in the area opposite our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd.
D. Our units engaged enemy personnel in the Mehran region, killing 18 and destroying 1 observation post.
E. Seven were killed and one fuel vehicle and one field gun were destroyed in the Dezful region. Our units also destroyed one White vehicle, accompanied by two small vehicles, in the same region.
F. One vehicle was destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
G. Nine were killed, one vehicle and one excavator were destroyed and one fuel reservoir was burned in the Abadan region. Two enemy boats were also destroyed in the Karun River.

Thus, total known enemy losses are: 56 dead and 4 vehicles, 2 field guns, 1 excavator, 1 observation post, 2 boats, and 1 fuel tank destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. Personnel: 14 martyrs in all sectors.
B. Equipment: One personnel carrier, two vehicles and one mortar damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 February 1981

Communique No 254

JN211718 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA)--Our valiant armed forces continued their battles against the Persian enemy in all sectors, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment.

The Armed Forces General Command Communique, issued this evening, put the known Persian enemy losses during the battles yesterday evening and this morning at 22 dead and 1 tank destroyed. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 254 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following are the results of our armed forces' activities in the various operations sectors yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Four were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
B. Three were killed and one tank was destroyed opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
C. One was killed in the Mehran region.
D. Four were killed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
E. Five were killed in the Ahvaz region.
F. Five were killed in the Abadan region.

Thus, the total of known enemy losses is 22 dead and 1 tank destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Six martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One vehicle was damaged.

[Singed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 February 1981

Communique No 255

JN221726 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Communique No 255 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 22 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With high confidence and morale, our valiant armed forces continue their activities in the operation sectors. The following are the results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One vehicle was destroyed in the Nowsud region.
B. Seven were killed and three infantry positions and one vehicle carrying ammunition were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region:
C. Four were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
D. A group of enemy troops tried to approach our positions in Sayf Sa'd. Our forces opened fire with artillery and mortars and forced the enemy to flee, leaving behind 13 dead. Our forces also destroyed one enemy observation post in the same region.
E. Four were killed and one field gun and one observation post were destroyed in the Mehran region.
F. Five were killed and one field gun was destroyed in the Dezful region. Our planes also destroyed eight enemy vehicles with direct hits in the same region.
G. Four were killed in the Shush region.
H. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region. Our forces engaged it with various weapons and forced it to retreat, leaving behind 12 dead.
I. Our forces engaged enemy troops and positions in the Abadan region, killing 19 and destroying 1 vehicle carrying ammunition, 3 field guns and 1 observation post.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 68 dead and 11 evhicles, 5 field guns, 3 observation posts and 3 infantry positions destroyed.

II. One of our patrols discovered 70 dead enemy troops and a number of medium and light weapons. These were left behind following the 15 Feburary 1981 battle in the Mehran region and could not be evacuated by the enemy. Appropriate measures were taken to bury the dead. Another 85 enemy bodies had been buried on 18 February following the same battle.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Eight martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One vehicle was damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 February 1981

BAGHDAD ADDRESSES IRANIANS 'YEARNING FOR FREEDOM'

GF221307 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] We address ourselves to the Iranian peoples, who are yearning for freedom and liberty and who are suffering from cruelty and torture, and particularly to the brave people of Iranian Azarbayjan who have lost many of their beloved in prisons. You waged a long and sacred struggle for your national rights against the shah's regime. Many of your compatriots sacrificed their lives for the sake of liberty and fought with great difficulty and at great expense to save Iran from disaster. The shah's regime was eradicated as a result of your struggle and that of the Iranian peoples. However, the robed shahs that usurped power from the shah of Iran are now pursuing the latter's policy. In order to drown the peoples of Iran in blood, they have created disorder everywhere and are pursuing a policy of cruelty and torture.

Brave sons of Iranian Azarbayjan, it is common knowledge that the illiterate administrators of Iran are forcing you to live in (?poverty). You are also aware of this. These rulers are wasting your time with lies, slander, [word indistinct] and fabrications they are ordering your loved ones to the battlefront to fight against Iraq and die. As a result fatherless families throughout Iran are gradually withering away from starvation.

The Iranian rulers are depositing the hardearned assets of the Iranian nation in European banks. Due to its inability to administer the country on the basis of leftist, democratic principles, this despotic and illiterate government has rejected Iraq's peace proposals. It is stubbornly endeavoring to aggravate the war, because its members are aware that they will have no place in Iran once peace and stability have been created in this country.

Brave sons of Iranian Azarbayjan, descendants of Saddar Khan, (Pejdaromoglu) and Ja'far ibn-Shavari, we address you from a revolutionary position. Hear what we say; heed our words and unite your views. Everything is progressing in the world today. People throughout the world are progressing, except Iran. It has been soaked in blood, and the lives of the Iranian peoples have been destroyed by the illiterate mullahs.

Brave sons of Iranian Azarbayjan, stand up, arm youselves and join the other peoples of Iran in eradicating the cruel rulers of the country. Join the other peoples in progress. Stop the war that has been declared against Iraq by the illiterate mullahs who have fraudulently usurped the true revolution of the brave Iranian peoples through the imposition of canonical law. Do not send your loved ones to their deaths any more.

AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA HAMAMI RETURNS TO DAMASCUS

JN210843 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] Amman--Jordanian Ambassador to Syria Husayn Hamami has returned to Damascus after being recalled for consultations. He had met with several senior government officials.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE SEEKS MEETING

JN210930 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Feb 81 p 24

[Text] Amman--Contacts are underway to agree on a date for convening the Jordanian-Palestinian committee for the support of steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories in Amman. AR-RAY'Y has learned that the PLO has replaced Talal Naji and Sami Al-'Attari with Hani al-Hasan and 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar on the Palestinian side to the joint committee.

ARMY COMMANDER RECEIVES UN MILITARY OFFICIALS

JN161704 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Feb 81

[Text] Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, today received in his office Gen Emmanuel Erskine, the new commander of the UN truce supervision organization, Gen Erkki Kaira, the former commander of the UN disengagement of forces command. The meeting was attended by the chief of staff and his assistant for intelligence affairs.

SYRIAN JEALOUSY OF JORDAN'S ROLE, POLICY POSITED

JN211903 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Station commentary: "The Role Which the Syrian Rulers Are Seeking"]

[Text] In the modern world of today, good relations among states, positive international contacts and an open-door attitude toward world countries are part of the power of a certain state. A large part of a state's international status and capability is based on these factors. Jordan has always endeavored to build strong relations with various international quarters and to always adopt distinctive positions based on its principles and convictions and its awareness of the facts related to the inter-connections and ties among international interests.

It can be gleaned from the comments of the Syrian media that the world's respect for Jordan's position in the international community is unnerving the Syrian regime to the extent that they imagine that the international community's stressing of Jordan's position and role in the cause of the Arab nation is belittling or even wiping out Syria's role. It is not we who say this; this was what Damascus radio commentator Ahmad 'Ajaj said. He pointed out that it seems that the Jordanian door, as he put it, is now the main stake. The Syrian commentator added: However, the U.S. administration is of the opinion that the reduction or even the wiping out of Syria's role is the main target of U.S. policy during the next stage. This is what Damascus radio says. It fears the reduction of Syria's role and the diminishing of the betting on this role in the next stage. Because Jordan has good relations of mutual respect with the world countries, Syria is upset and is afraid of losing a role which it has been trying to establish during the post-camp David stage by containing the Palestinian role, the main role in the cause, and by plotting against Jordan's ability to move on the international scene in the service of the Arab stand. This is a stand to which Jordan is committed within an Arab consensus in the Arab summit conferences which stressed the rights of the Palestinians to lead, through their sole legitimate representative the PLO, any Arab or international effort to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

The Syrian regime is, therefore, craving a role. It is raising a hollow slogan, namely that those who are opposed to the Syrian regime are opposed to the Arab and Palestinian causes. This is because the Syrian regime wants to be the center of betting and does not want to be bypassed.

Within the framework of this dim picture of the Syrian regime's thinking, we can understand Syrian President al-Asad's statement following his meeting with Lenanese Premier al-Wazzan. Al-Asad said: Syria is ready to talk with the United States if the latter talks to Syria. Within this picture and this craving for a role, we can also understand the Syrian foreign minister's persistance during the Amman presummit seven-sided committee meetings that Syria should be represented in the committee for the affairs of the occupied homeland in addition to the PLO and Jordan. Hence we can also understand Al-Asad's statements to Al-Wazzan that Jordan has no part in the cause because it has no occupied territories, and that, on the other hand, Syria has an occupied territory and, therefore, has a role.

We do not question Syria's desire to have a role. The Syrian people have always had a central role in the Arab cause, and Syria has always been in the forefront in the defense of Arab rights. However, when the Syrian rulers began managing their government in the gangster spirit, the Syrian role was affected and Syria's ability to establish good relations on the international scene suffered. This might justify Syrian envy of Jordan because of its good relations with the world. However, it does not justify the Syrian rulers' mistakes, their distortion of Syria's image and their harmful acts. We will be pleased if the Syrian regime realizes that a state's strength and position bear a close relation with its good attitude toward the world. Must they assail Jordan because of its good relations with others? Is it a crime to have good relations on the Arab and international levels? Must Syria assail Jordan because it is cooperating with the PLO? Has the spoiling of existing relations between the PLO and Jordan become a Syrian demand with the aim of hampering Jordan's role in supporting the steadfastness of the people in the occupied homeland? Is it for this reason that the Syrian rulers resorted to breaking up the PLO into pro-Syrian groups that are opposed to PLO-Jordanian cooperation and other groups that support this cooperation in the interest of the Palestinian people?

We tell those who crave a role: Syria can play a genuine role through a well-balanced policy and not by slipping into a cycle of terrorism, organizing campaigns of political assassination and abduction of innocent people, or by plotting against others and denying their roles. We are aware that Syria is looking for a role in the coming stage. The U.S. Government sent a letter in reply to the Syrian Government's thanks for U.S. efforts in convincing the Israeli Government to abandon a move to annex the Golan heights. The letter said word for word: This U.S. initiative helps Syria promote an open-door attitude toward the peace process and play its basic role in the peace process. This is a very clear statement. What is more clear is the Syrian president's acceptance of the European initiative after having branded those taking part in this initiative as plotters. It upset him to find that Jordan had been behind the evolution of this initiative. When the European emissaries came to him directly, he gave the initiative his blessings because it came within the framework of the role of which the Syrian regime is dreaming in the settlement process.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the logic of those who seek a role through sabotaging the Arab position and plotting against the roles of the main parties to the Arab cause. Within the framework of this logic, the Arab people can explain the behavior of the Syrian regime and its practices which are ridden with fumbling, fear and random moves that serve only the enemies of the Arab cause.

BUTRUS, ROMANIA'S ANDREI HOLD SECOND MEETING

NC201743 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Today a second meeting was held between Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and Romanian Foreign Minister Mr Stefan Andrei, who is on the second day of his visit to Lebanon.

The second session of the Lebanese-Romanian talks was devoted to economic relations between the two countries. Those participating on the Lebanese side were: The minister of water and electricity, Engineer Anwar as-Sabbah; the minister of public works and transport, Ilyas al-Hirawi; the director of the development and construction board, (Muhammad 'Atallah); the director general of investments, Engineer (Maurice Ghazal); the director of the Foreign Ministry's political affairs, Ambassador ('Abd ar-Rahman as-Sulh); the acting director of economic affairs, adviser (Michel Salamah) and first adviser (Naji abu-'Asi).

Those participating on the Romanian side were the Romanian ambassador in Lebanon and the delegation accompanying the Romanian minister.

After the meeting Minister Butrus said: Our discussions dealt with cooperation between the two countries while taking the Lebanese regulations [anzimah] into account. We studied [Romanian] participation in Lebanese development projects.

Andrei Departure Statement

NC211312 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Today the Romanian foreign minister, Mr Andrei, concluded his 3-day official visit to Lebanon. During this visit he held talks with Lebanon's leaders dealing with the spheres of cooperation between Lebanon and Romania in the political and economic areas.

Minister Andrei and the Romanian delegation accompanying him left Beirut at 1215 today to return to Romania. The Romanian minister was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, the Romanian ambassador in Beirut and high-ranking officials of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry and the [Romanian] Embassy.

At the airport the Romanian foreign minister made a statement in which he said: During my visit to Lebanon I exchanged views with my colleague, Fu'ad Butrus. Our talks will help develop the political and economic relations between our two countries. The Romanian minister added: During my talks with President Sarkis I formed a very clear idea [about Lebanon's situation]. I have renewed the invitation extended to his excellency by President Ceausescu to visit Romania. My talks with Minister Butrus were useful and important. We dealt with international issues and matters related to the realization of a just and durable peace in the Middle East, a peace which would ensure the Israeli forces' withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967. The Romanian minister added: We support the Palestinian people's national aspirations, including the establishment of a Palestinian state. On this occasion we wish that Lebanon would return to the atmosphere of peace, stability and calm and, for that matter, the circumstances that would contribute to strengthening it and bolstering its independence, sovereignty, unity and the safety of its territories.

Minister Fu'ad Butrus, on his part, said:

[Begin recording] The Romanian minister's visit to Lebanon was useful and had positive results. This visit gave us the opportunity to exchange views with regard to international and regional issues as well as the region's problems.

We also discussed the means that might ensure correct, sound and just solutions for this problem. This visit also enabled us to discuss Lebanon's affairs from the perspective of the link between the Lebanese problem and the Middle East problem. We also discussed the international issues and the need to find the means that will break this link in order to attain solutions--even phased ones--to the Lebanese crisis.

Our discussions also enabled us to deal with the Lebanese-Romanian relations at the political and economic levels. We have succeeded in putting forth some of our concepts to bolster these relations by means of more cooperation and understanding between the two countries; all of this is positive and will, no doubt, lead to fruitful results.

[Question] Your Excellency the minister: This is a question that does not fall within the framework of the negotiations. Yesterday's reports said that President Sarkis will visit the United States in response to an official invitation. Do you have any information in this respect?

[Answer] You have used this opportunity to ask me a question that does not have any relation with the Romanian minister's visit. However, I will tell you that the reports published in today's papers are devoid of any truth. [end recording]

KIDNAPPED JORDANIAN CHARGE REPORTEDLY ALIVE

NC210940 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] The chairman of the committee for the defense of the constitution and freedom in Lebanon, (Muhsin Salim), has received a cable from the chairman of the human rights commission in Geneva stating that Jordanian Charge d'Affaires Hisham al-Muhaysin is alive and that he is detained somewhere between Damascus and Beirut. The cable adds that the human rights committee in Lebanon must intensify its efforts with the authorities concerned to secure the release of the charge d'affaires.

Immediately upon receiving the cable, (Muhsin Salim) contacted the concerned official quarters in Lebanon and Damascus. (Salim) says that there is a great hope that the charge d'affaires will soon return to his headquarters.

BA'TH PARTY DELEGATION TO ATTEND CPSU CONGRESS

Departure for Moscow

JN201649 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Damascus--A Ba'th Party delegation left for Moscow today led by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, to participate in the work of the 26th CPSU Congress. Comrade al-Ahmar and his delegation were seen off at Damascus International Airport by a number of Ba'th Party National and Regional Command members, a number of party members and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

Moscow Arrival Statement

JN210745 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Moscow--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, made a statement to the SANA correspondent upon his arrival last night in Moscow. He said the Ba'th Party's participation in the 26th CPSU Congress comes wthin the framework of the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries. Our participation on such a level, he added, reflects the great importance we attach to this congress.

Comrade al-Ahmar noted that the congress is a forum for all forces that are determined to continue the struggle to build socialism; consolidate peace; fight imperialism; colonialism and Zionism; and crush imperialism's remaining pillars and new plans to increase tension in different parts of the world and to establish new U.S. military bases to undermine peoples' independence and impose American hegemony.

Concluding, Comrade al-Ahmar asserted that the USSR's policy on the Middle East question is a firm, principled policy based on supporting the Arabs against aggression. We are certain, he added, that the CPSU congress will reaffirm the USSR's continued adherence to this policy.

BA'TH PARTY STATEMENT CALLS FOR ARAB UNITY

JN220900 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Damascus--The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has issued a statement on the 23d anniversary of the declaration of unity between Egypt and Syria in 1958 and the 15th anniversary of the 23 February 1966 movement. The statement asserts that the establishment of unity between Egypt and Syria was a great event in contemporary Arab history through which the Arab masses expressed their joy and optimism over the achievement of their first pan-Arab goal. Referring to the successes achieved during the unity years against traitorous regimes and foreign imperialists, the statement says all that was achieved through the pan-Arab struggle waged by the Arab nation and its broad masses.

The statement stressed that the importance of unity in fighting imperialist and reactionary plans is increasing with every passing day. These plans, it adds, can only be fought with Arab unity. It is through unity that the Arab masses can end the occupation of Arab territory and foil all hostile plots and maneuvers against the Arab homeland.

The statement speaks about As-Sadat's treason and the new alliance which the Baghdad ruler is trying to set up with the Jordanian king to implement U.S. policy. This alliance, the statement says, began with the nonpatriotic war against the Iranian revolution. The statement says that imperialism and Zionism have achieved some successes, because certain Arab rulers have linked themselves with U.S. imperialism.

The statement says that the new alliance between Baghdad and Amman reminds us of the suspect Hashemite Federation, which the imperialist circles set up in 1958 to counter the progressive Arab forces represented by the 1958 unity between Egypt and Syria within the United Arab Republic. This new alliance, the statement adds, is directed against the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and progressive forces everywhere in the Arab world. This suspect alliance will collapse as its predecessor collapsed, and the will of the masses of our people in Iran, Jordan and elsewhere in the Arab world will triumph in the end.

The statement says that As-Sadat's action in joining forces with the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism is not much different from Saddam Husayn's action in turning our Iraqi people away from their basic battle in Palestine. Saddam Husayn has also antagonized the Iranian revolution, which, since its triumph, has sided with the Arab nation and its central issue of liberating Palestine and Jerusalem.

The statement reiterates that siding with the Zionist enemy and imperialism is no different from turning an Arab country, with all its resources, away from the main battle and antagonizing Arab allies. Such action necessarily leads to wasting Arab efforts, harming national unity and depriving the Arab masses of opportunities for progress and victory. Consequently, such action serves the interests of imperialism and Zionism.

Speaking about the 23 February 1966 movement, the statement says that movement had finally condemned the rightist forces. Through that movement, the Ba'th Party masses in the Arab homeland expelled the fascist rightist clique, which was hostile to the interests of the broad masses and was linked with suspicious plans. That movement succeeded in exposing rightist policy and expelling its advocates from the ranks of nationalist socialist strugglers in the Arab homeland.

The statement says that the people who are now leading the Baghdad regime and who have been condemned by the party rank and file since the February 1966 movement, have now been unmasked. Their true objectives will also be exposed day after day, because they are contrary to national interests.

Speaking about the importance of unity, the statement says the achievement of unity is our primary objective. It is our best means to fight hostile plans aginst our homeland. It asserts that Syria and its leader party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, will continue the struggle for Arab unity to strengthen the Arab nation. The slogan of our party and country will always be: Let us fight for unity--the unity of common Arab struggle. Let us fight for the unity which confronts the Zionist enemy, imperialism and reaction and their plans, not the unity which turns its back on these hostile forces.

The statement then speaks about the important historic role played by Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic, in the achievement of unity. It says President al-Asad has made unity his primary goal. Thus, he has responded to every initiative to achieve the unity of the Arab masses to strengthen them against their enemies--hence the role played by the member states of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation to strengthen the Arab nation's capability and to achieve unity of purpose as a first step toward achieving unity of will.

The statement affirms that the Arab masses' movement toward unity is strengthened daily by the unity of the Arab progressive and patriotic forces, which are now leading the masses' struggle and defending their gains. Real unity, the statement stresses, is that which is based on the unity of the masses everywhere in the Arab world and the unity of the patriotic and progressive forces.

The National Command concluded its statement by affirming that the party will remain loyal to the goals of the Arab masses. It said that struggler Syria will remain the symbol of Arab steadfastness against hostile plans, Zionism and U.S. imperialism. Syria will continue to fight to achieve the Arab nation's objectives of unity, freedom and socialism.

PDRY PEOPLE'S COUNCIL CHAIRMAN VISITS DAMASCUS

Arrival, Al-Asad Meeting

JN211812 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Damascus--'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council, arrived in Damascus at 1645 today leading an official delegation on a working visit. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who welcomed the esteemed guest. President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's delegation comprises Abu Bakr Abu Zayd, YSP Political Bureau member; 'Ali Sha'i' Hadi, YSP Political Bureau candidate member; Salim Salih Muhammad, YSP Central Committee member and foreign minister; and Mutlaq 'Abdallah, YSP Central Committee member. The two presidents held a meeting immediately upon their arrival at the guest palace. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the prime minister; Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Ba'th Party assistant regional secretary; Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, information minister; and members of the Yemeni delegation.

Speaking to a SANA correspondent upon his arrival, President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: I feel very happy to visit the fraternal Syrian Arab Republic and to meet with my brother President Hafiz al-Asad in order to study the developments in our Arab region and to exchange viewpoints on the international situation. Our visit will give us the chance to hold a comprehensive discussion of the means to decisively counter the suspicious and aggressive moves of U.S. imperialism and those of the Camp David parties, these moves that have been recently crowned with the establishment of aggressive military bases in Oman, Somali and Egypt, the formation of the Rapid Deployment Forces and the implementation of military maneuvers in Oman and Egypt. President al-Asad and I will also exchange viewpoints on the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the possibility of activating its various organizations so it can shoulder the responsibility of facing the threats aimed against the Arab people. Also based on the bonds of the joint struggle connecting the two fraternal Arab peoples in the PDRY and Syria, we will review means to further bolster bilateral relations of our countries and parties.

Our Yemeni people highly appreciate the bold steadfastness of the fraternal Syria Arab people, this people who heroically resist the plots of domestic reaction and the designs of the Camp David parties. We consider Syria's steadfastness to be the steadfastness of the entire Arab nation in the face of all our enemies. Therefore, it has become obvious that the support of Syria's steadfastness serves our joint Arab struggle and translates into action the unity and solidarity of the Arab liberation movement on the path of struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Allow me to stress that our people will continue to support the fraternal Syrians who are demonstrating the spirit of boldness and resistance in the face of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary enemy.

Initial Talks

JN220731 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad and PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad began their official talks at 1930 last night at the presidential palace. The talks were joined 2 hours later by the members of the official delegation accompanying the PDRY president and by, on the Syrian side, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, regional assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for services affairs; 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and defense minister; Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, minister of information; Maj Gen Nasir ad-din Nasir, minister of interior; 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for presidential affairs; Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; and Comrade 'Abd al-Hafiz Nu'man, member of the Ba'th Party National Command.

The talks, which were interrupted for dinner, dealt with the developments of the situation in the Arab region and means of strengthening Arab steadfastness, foiling the hostile plans of the Camp David partners--manifested in surrounding the Arab world with imperialist military bases--and bolstering the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation which is spearheading the struggle against imperialist and Zionist plans.

The talks, which were held in a fraternal atmosphere, reviewed international issues of mutual concern and fraternal relations between Syria and the PDRY and means of strengthening them. Viewpoints were identical on all matters discussed.

Meeting With DPFLP

JN221819 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Damascus, 22 Feb (SANA)--'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council, received here this morning a delegation of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP], comprising Abu Layla, Salih Ra'fat and Taysir Khalid, DPFLP Political Bureau members.

The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the current Arab situation and the need to consolidate the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, reactivate its institutions and develop its role in the face of the imperialist and Arab reactionary plots. The two sides expressed concern over the dense U.S. [military] concentrations in the region. They also denounced the increasing military presence of U.S. imperialism in the Arab Gulf region.

The two sides condemned the reactionary Arab alliances which are in harmony with the hostile U.S. policy and which threaten the security and stability of the region's peoples.

The DPFLP delegation expressed the Palestinian people's support for the PDRY and its stand at the side of the Yemeni people against all the imperialist and reactionary provocations and maneuvers.

The two sides also condemned the so-called European initiative which is being talked about these days and which is aimed at rescuing Camp David [words indistinct] imperialist solutions and submitting them in a new formula.

Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reiterated the PDRY's support for Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist forces in their struggle against and confrontation of the Camp David and the self-rule plot.

Concluding Talks, Departure

JN221456 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad and [PDRY] Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad met in private at 1030 today at the presidential palace. They concluded their discussions, which began yesterday, on the situation in the Arab homeland and on all issues of common interest to Syria and the PDRY.

Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad left Damascus at 1230 at the end of his working visit to the country. President Hafiz al-Asad led the farewell ceremony accorded to Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad at Damascus International Airport.

Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad made a statement to journalists at the end of his visit, in which he said: To begin with, I would like to say that my talks with Brother President Hafiz al-Asad were extremely successful and fruitful. This visit to Syria of steadfastness gave us the opportunity to meet with Brother President Hafiz al-Asad in the circumstances through which our Arab nation is passing.

We discussed the situation in the Arab region and the escalation in the hostile activities of U.S. imperialism, Zionism and their agents, aiming at securing the Camp David conspiracy, which is being carried out through the traitors of the Arab nation who are known as agents for imperialism and Zionism.

We also had the opportunity, during this fraternal meeting, to discuss the dangerous imperialist moves along the coasts of the Arab Gulf and the Indian Ocean, represented by the increase and expansion of the U.S. Navy in the Indian Ocean and the arrival of units of the Rapid Deployment Forces in the region. Within this context, we discussed the Rapid Deployment Forces maneuver scheduled to take place in the Sultanate of Oman. This actually indicates that U.S. intervention in the affairs of the region has taken a serious turn, which must be dealt with and conclusively confronted. We also discussed the developments of the Middle East situation and asserted the necessity of continuing to support the PLO.

We highly appreciate the heroic role played by fraternal Syria in confronting this vicious machination and we support it against Zionist attacks and conspiracies and the terrorist activities of the reactionary gang, which imperialism is trying to revive. This gang is playing its role as part of the Camp David design.

While discussing the Middle East situation, the need to improve the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front and to strengthen solidarity with all Arab and international liberation forces was asserted.

We also evaluated the level of bilateral relations and are satisfied with them. We also emphasized the need to deepen and develop these relations in all fields. I am pleased to seize this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the hospitality with which we were received by our Brother President Hafiz al-Asad and our other Syrian brothers during this visit.

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT OPENS 22 FEB

Opening Speeches

JN230909 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Excerpts] The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference began its first session this year at 1800 at the Sheraton Hotel in Damascus under the slogan: The 1980's is the decade of liberation and unity; unity is the masses' course to liberation and progress. This first session in Damascus was dedicated to the anniversary of the 22 February 1958 unity between Syria and Egypt, the first unity in contemporary Arab history.

At the outset of the session, 'Umar al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Arab People's Conference, delivered a speech in which he greeted the Syrian Arab people and their struggler-leader, President Hafiz al-Asad. He stressed that the Syrian people continue as usual to shoulder the major pan-Arab tasks and to be the Arab nation's main shield against aggression. Al-Hamidi also greeted our Egyptian Arab people, the people of Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir and the 23 July 1952 revolution who, with the Syrian Arab people, achieved the first unity in contemporary Arab history.

Comrade Tawfiq Salhah, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and head of the regional organization, welcomed the participating delegations on behalf of the party leadership, the Progressive National Front and Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He wished the conference success in achieving its objectives.

Referring to the Syrian-Libyan merger, Comrade Salhah said: We consider the merger between our two fraternal countries as already agreed upon by our leadership and people. What remains are the formalities, which will be completed very soon.

Comrade Salhah reviewed the current circumstances experienced by the Arab nation. He said the plots and faked conflicts taking place in the Arab world are the outcome of the treasonous Camp David accords signed by Anwar as-Sadat with the Zionist enemy under the aegis of the United States.

Comrade Salhah concluded by saying that our Syrian Arab people, led by struggler Secretary General Hafiz al-Asad, are determined to firmly resist all the plots of imperialism, Zionism and reaction and their tools such as the criminal, murderous and agent Muslim Brotherhood gangs.

Speeches were also delivered by the representatives of the Palestinian Arab people, the Egyptian national movement, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Lebanese national movement. The speeches dealt with Egyptian-Syrian unity and the reasons for its setback. They stressed that the Arab people will continue the struggle for comprehensive Arab unity.

The 4-day session will resume its meetings today, holding them in the morning and the evening. During this session, the Permanent Secretariat will discuss a number of topics, including the political situation on the Arab and international levels and the secretariat's 1981 work plan.

Cable to Al-Asad

JN230830 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable of greetings and appreciation from the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference which met in Damascus last night in its first session this year. The cable reads:

The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, which is holding its first session this year in Damascus--the base of Arabism and struggle--is pleased to extend its greetings and to express its appreciation to you and the masses of our unionist and struggler Arab Syrian people, who uphold the objectives of progressive pan-Arab struggle. We would like to assure you that the Arab nation backs the Syrian Arab people in their unionist progressive struggle.

The Permanent Secretariat, which is holding this session on the 23d anniversary of the establishment of Syrian-Egyptian unity within the United Arab Republic, the first unity in contemporary Arab history, asserts that the struggle for unity will continue and that the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and the Arab People's Conference are determined to pursue the path of unity, liberation and victory. Therefore, we are not surprised by the conspiracies being concocted against Syria, the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, the Arab People's Conference and the struggle of the Arab nation in general.

Unity is the Arab progressive forces' reply to these conspiracies, because unity is the path to liberation and progress. Thus, the Syrian-Libyan merger within the unitary Arab state is the backbone of the Arab unionist progressive forces' reply to imperialism, Zionist and reaction.

We wish our people in Syria and our Arab nation victory on the path of unity, liberation and progress. The Arab People's Conference and its Permanent Secretariat adhere to unionist progressive struggle to liberate Palestine and achieve the unitary Arab state. We are confident that our Arab nation will achieve its objectives through its sacrifices and capabilities. A nation led by unionist vanguards shall not be defeated.

ATTEMPT REPORTEDLY MADE ON SADDAM HUSAYN'S LIFE

JN201946 Damascus Voice of Iraq in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] Arrivals from Baghdad report that Saddam Husayn was subjected to an assassination attempt this week when he was delivering a speech to a group of [words indistinct] whom he was sending to [words indistinct] against the Iraqi and Iranian peoples. The attempt was uncovered only 5 minutes before it was carried out [words indistinct]. Saddam [words indistinct] Baghdad has been subjected to (?several) assassination attempts this year.

ALGERIA

NATURAL GAS NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. DEADLOCKED

LD211346 Algiers APS in English 1116 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Algiers, 21 Feb (APS)--Algerian-American governmental negotiations on L.N.G. price ended without reaching an agreement, a source close to Energy Ministry indicated. This surprising information comes at the moment when observers were expecting an accord. As a matter of fact international press was speaking these days about an eventual agreement during this seventh session considering the obvious progress made during the former session held in Washington in January 1981.

According to these same sources, this negative result is the consequence of the sudden change of the U.S. position which reconsidered some of the points of the agreement that the former administration was ready to accept. Those same points seem essential to the Algerian side for the conclusion of a temporary compromise which would have allowed the carrying on of the negotiations for a long term accord in prices.

Sonatrach-El Paso contract amounting to 10 billion M3 of gas was signed in 1969 for the price of .305 dollars U.S. MBTU with an indexed part on non energetic rates taking the price to .37 dollars U.S. MBTU in 1979. [sentence as received] In order to adapt this contract to the new energetic data that appeared since 1969 the Algerian party has asked a revision of the price starting January 1979.

The following negotiations led to a signing of an additional clause between the two sides providing for a basic rate of 1.75 dollars MBTU with a decreasing allowance rebate ending in 1983. The modifications that occurred on the international energetic market during the second semester 1979 annulled this contract and Sonatrach, while continuing its LNG's supply asked for a price readjustment. After many months of negotiations Sontrach asked El Paso to pay a temporary price of 3 dollars MBTU starting April 1980 and to carry on the negotiations for the signing of an additional clause. In reply the U.S. company declared its incapacity to pay such a price in the absence of this government accord and consequently would stop its LNG removal starting April 1980.

Although this situation was not caused by Sonatrach, a certain international press quickly concluded that Algeria has stopped its gas supply, at the time when our country was refusing in a plain legitimate manner a very low price not only in relation to other natural gas suppliers in the world but also with regard to the prices of its other gas contracts.

After this blockage, and at the explicit request of the American party, the negotiations at governmental level were launched in April 1980. These negotiations which ended their seventh session without leading to an accord on price, and without the two sides agreeing for a new meeting date could mean that the negotiations at governmental level have ended.

Facing this deadlock, nobody knows at the moment where the settlement of this question is going to find its framework.

ALGERIA-BENIN JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN ALGIERS

LD2[illegible]536 Algiers APS in English 1445 GMT 21 Feb 81

["FLN-Benin: Joint Communique"--APS headline]

[Text] Algiers, 21 Feb (APS)--At the end of the (?visit) of a delegation from the Benin People's Revolution Party, from 12 to 19 February 1981, at the invitation of the FLN Party, a joint communique stated that the two delegations have taken stock of the execution of the protocol agreement signed by the two parties, in Cotonou, on April 16th 1980, and reaffirmed their common will to intensify cooperation between the two peoples, the two parties and the two states. Within this framework, a programme of action has been drawn.

The two delegations reaffirmed their acting solidarity with the brother peoples of Namibia and South Africa which struggle under the leadership of their legitimate representatives the SWAPO and the ANC.

The two parties also condemned the aggressions perpetrated by the South Africa racist regime against the People's Republic of Mozambique and the People's Republic of Angola.

The two delegations denounced the policy of expansionism and aggression led by Morocco against the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR)'s [as received] people despite the rights of peoples to self-determination and independence. They affirmed that the direct negotiation between (?the) Moroccan regime and the Polisario Front is the only way towards the settlement of the conflict. The two delegations reaffirmed their support to the Polisario Front.

They have also been satisfied with the peace within Chad and invite the African countries to joint efforts for helping Chad in exercising its sovereignty.

The two parties consider that no lasting, global and just solution can intervene in the Middle-East without the participation of the UNIC and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, i.e.: the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.).

As concerns Iraq-Iran conflict, the two parties invite the two countries to reach a peaceful settlement through negotiation.

As for Latin America, they reaffirmed their support to the peoples struggling against imperialism and dictatorships. The two parties stressed their attachment to the setting up of a new international economic order.

FLN TALKS WITH GDR DELEGATION BEGIN 21 FEB

LD221336 Algiers APS in English 1234 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Algiers, 22 Feb (APS)--Delegations of the Unified Socialist Party (S.E.D.) of the German Democratic Republic and of the Algerian FLN Party started their first political talks yesterday. The FLN delegation led by Mr Slimane Hoffmann, CC members, chairman of the External Relations' Commission, includes senior officials of the party and representatives of mass organizations. S.E.D.'s delegation is presided over by Erich Mueckenberger, Politburo member, chairman of S.E.D.'s Commission of Control and groups several senior members of S.E.D.

Opening their works, the two officials praised good relations existing between FLN and SED and the excellent links of friendship between the two peoples. They stressed that this visit is an opportunity to reinforce bilateral relations between the two parties.

During their stay S.E.D. delegation, will be received by the People's National Assembly (A.P.N.) President Mr Rabah Bitat and by Mr Messaadia, responsible of the Permanent Secretariat of the C.C.

FLN OFFICIAL DEPARTS FOR MOSCOW CPSU CONGRESS

LD221358 Algiers APS in English 1250 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Algiers, 22 Feb (APS)--Mr Mohamed Sa'id Mazouzi, FLN Politburo member, chairman of the Economic and Social Commission of the party left Algiers today for Moscow. While in Moscow, Mr Mazouzi will attend at the invitation of Soviet authorities the 26th Congress of the Communist Party. The congress will start its works tomorrow.

LIBYA

PDRY LEADER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT 20 FEB

LD201804 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Feb (JANA)--At noon today Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and prime minister of the PDRY, arrived here for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ]. Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud welcomed 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and the delegation accompanying him at Tripoli international airport. The brother secretaries of the general people's committees and the heads of diplomatic missions in the Jamahiriyah were also there to welcome him.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad made a statement to JANA in which he expressed happiness at being in the SPLAJ, pointing out that he would exploit his visit for fraternal talks on the development of relations between the two countries. He said that his visit was an extension of previously exchanged visits and expressed the hope and confidence that it would contribute to the consolidation of the struggle and links between the Yemeni and Libyan revolutions, and would open a wide scope for the development of these links in the future.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad confirmed that his country fully supported the Jamahiriyah against the intrigues of imperialist and reactionary forces in the region and against the provocations of the ruling regime in Egypt. He said we highly appreciate the great changes achieved by the Libyan people. He explained that during the visit he would hold consultations on the current Arab situation and in particular on the dangers resulting from Camp David and the role of the steadfastness and confrontation in aborting this plot. He will also discuss the recovery of the occupied Arab territories, support for the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, and the setting up of its own state.

He pointed out that among the vital problems which he would be discussing during this visit were ways of confronting U.S. colonialist moves and checking the dangers of U.S. bases in Oman, Somalia, Egypt and the Indian Ocean; the importance of the bringing together of our two countries' efforts aimed at the liquidation of colonialist military presence, and creating conditions suitable for making the region one of peace, stability and cooperation among its peoples.

Joint Communique on Visit

LD220000 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Joint communique issued 21 February on the 20-21 February visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, YSP Central Committee secretary general and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and of the Council of Ministers of the PDRY]

[Text] At the invitation of brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PDRY, paid a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from 20 to 21 February 1981. The visit comes within the framework of the meetings and consultations carried out by the leaderships in the two sister countries in confirmation of their ties of fraternity and joint struggle, strengthening the fraternal relations between the two sister countires and the service of their joint objectives and interests, as well as in the cause of defending just issues of the Arab nation and maintaining its dignity and realizing the aims of its masses.

Brothers Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of 1 September Revolution, and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, held talks in an atmosphere marked by a spirit of fraternity and cordiality. The talks dealt with bilateral relations, Arab issues and new developments on the international level.

They expressed their satisfaction with the firm fraternal relations in all spheres between the two sister countries and with the growth of cooperation in accordance with the agreements concluded between the two countries. These agreements respond to the aspirations of the two peoples in realizing progress and prosperity.

They confirmed their determination to expand domains of cooperation and to establish ways to reinforce and consolidate them in order to reach the aspired objectives and to consolidate the ties of struggle which bring together the Libyan and Yemeni revolutions in the service of the supreme interests of the Arab nation.

Reviewing the situation in the Arab homeland, the two sides agreed that the current phase through which the Arab nation is passing is one of the most serious phases of struggle in its life against the old and neocolonialism, Zionism and reaction. They stressed the need to continue the struggle against the Camp David accords. They also expressed their principled and full support to rendering all forms of help to consolidate the victory of the just cause of the Palestinian Arab people, especially their right to the return, self-determination and establishment of their own independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. In that respect the two sides confirmed the need to consolidate the role of the National Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation and to develop relations of struggle among its members. They backed the Arab people's congress as well as the strengthening of the Arab struggle against colonialism and Zionism.

The two sides are of the opinion that it is important to hold a summit conference of the National Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation as soon as possible.

The two sides stressed the importance of awakening and mustering the capabilities of the Arab liberation forces and of reinforcing the alliance among their various units to oppose the fierce colonialist and Zionist assault, and to work to liquidate the U.S.' aggressive, military bases in Egypt, Oman and Somalia.

The two sides fully supported the struggle of the Egyptian people, as well as their national and progressive forces, to topple the regime of agent As-Sadat. They also fully supported the struggle of the Omani people under the leadership of the National Front for the Liberation of Oman in order to establish a national regime that contributes toward the battles of destiny of the Arab nation, to the fore of which is the armed struggle to liberate the occupied Arab lands and to achieve victory in the Palestine issue.

The two sides strongly condemned the United States' joint maneuvers in Egypt and Oman as constituting a serious threat to the independence and sovereignty of the Arab countries. Brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed his support for the initiative of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to call a summit conference for the states of the Gulf area, the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa to discuss the liquidation of foreign military presence as being a positive step toward bringing security and stability in those regions.

The two sides dealt with the situation in Lebanon. They expressed their solidarity with sister Lebanon. They confirmed their care for its independence, national sovereignty and integrity, which is being threatened by the Zionist enemy.

They stressed their full support for sister Syria in foiling the internal and external maneuvers aimed at harming its steadfastness.

They also expressed their great anxiety over the situation in the Western Sahara, the result of foreign occupation. They renewed their support for and consolidation with the struggle of the Saharan people under the leadership its sole legitimate representative, the Polisario Front, in the cause of exercising their right to self-determination and independence.

Brothers Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad saluted the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic's fifth anniversary.

The two sides supported the Soviet Union's initiative, announced by Leonid Brezhnev in India. It comprises a call for rendering the Gulf and Indian Ocean as areas free from any foreign military presence, as well as not involving those areas in the establishment of alliances and activities that may lead to disturbing security and peace.

The two sides expressed their endearment for the Ethiopian people's support for the struggle of the Arab peoples. They confirmed their solidarity with the Ethiopian revolution. The two sides called for the need for coordination and cooperation between the National Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation as well as the Arab peoples and the Ethiopian revolution in the cause of reinforcing the liberation struggle against Zionism, racism, and colonialism.

The two sides expressed their serious concern at the endeavors being made by colonialist and reactionary forces to divide the African states, which are aggravating the situation in Africa and hindering the efficiency of the OAU. The two sides condemned those endeavors as well as any other direct or indirect interference on the part of those forces in the internal affairs of the African independent states. In that respect the two sides urged those colonialist and reactionary forces to halt flagrant interference in African affairs, not because the interference constitutes violation of the OAU and UN Charters, but because it forms a maneuver which aims at hindering the great progress the OAU has achieved in the course of the last 18 years in resolving African issues.

In that respect the two sides condemned the flagrant French and U.S. interference in the affairs of the African Continent.

The two sides stressed their consolidation with and support for the legitimate Chad Government of National Union under President Goukouni Oueddei. They confirmed their condemnation of the colonialist and reactionary forces which are trying to harm the victories being achieved by the people of Chad. They warned those states of the consequences of any aggression against the Republic of Chad.

The two sides also stressed anew their full support for the national liberation movements in South Africa. They condemned racist South Africa and its colonialist allies on account of the failure of the Geneva talks. They strongly demanded an end to the illegitimate occupation of Namibia and the withdrawal of the forces of the racist regime of South Africa from Namibia, in accordance with the UN resolutions in that respect, and the granting of true independence to the country under the leadership of SWAPO, the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, affirmed the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's continued consolidation and support for the people in the PDRY in building their new life and confronting all forms of conspiracies and threats of colonialism and reaction and for the cause of bringing about the unity of the two parts of Yemen by peaceful means.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi lauded the efforts being exerted by the PDRY in that direction.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the positive results reached in the course of the visit. They stressed the importance of continued meetings between the political leaderships of the two sister countries.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his gratitude and great appreciation for the brotherly welcome accorded him and the delegation accompanying him. He extended an invitation to his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, to visit the PDRY. He accepted the invitation with thanks. The date will be fixed later.

READINESS, CONDITIONS FOR SOVIET TREATY REPORTED

NC221800 Paris AFP in English 1747 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Damascus, 22 Feb (AFP)--Libya is prepared to sign a treaty of friendship and co-operation with Moscow similar to the Syrian-Soviet accord if the treaty guaranteed Libya's independence and sovereignty, Libyan Justice Minister Muhammad al-Qasim az-Zvwayy [as received] said here today.

In a statement to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS, Mr Zwai also said that Tripoli might sign a treaty with Moscow if Libya was faced with conditions similar to those that confronted Syria prior to the signing of its accord with the Soviet Union. He did not elaborate. On February 15, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said Libya would subscribe to the Syrian-Soviet treaty after a union between Libya and Syria had been established.

CHAD REPORTEDLY REJECTS LIBYAN WITHDRAWAL OFFER

LD201224 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] Algiers, 20 Feb (JANA)--The Chadian foreign minister, Acyl Ahmat, has said: the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has proposed to the Chadian national government to withdraw its forces from Chadian territory, but we refused to accept such a proposal because the freedom of our people is threatened.

In an interview with the Algerian EL MOUDJAHID published yesterday he said: Thanks to the Libyan assistance we were able to put an end to the routed rebellious forces. He pointed out that the Jamahiriyah was the only country which responded to our call for help to put an end to the mutiny which was backed by the As-Sadat regime. He stressed that there is a big difference between the Libyan assistance, which we had asked for, and the colonialist forces which are stationed in certain African countries for the purpose of disturbing stability. The Chadian minister stressed that Chad will have the Libyan forces remain on its territory so long as its security remains threatened.

JANA REAFFIRMS SUDANESE-LIBYAN LETTER EXCHANGE

LD221940 Tripoli JANA in English 1542 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Feb (JANA)--The Sudanese minister of state for external affairs said reports that the Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri received a letter from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi on the rearming of the Sudanese Army, land reclamation aid and the opening of new vistas of cooperation with the Sudan, are untrue.

The JAMAHRIYAH NEWS AGENCY once again reaffirms that letters were directly exchanged with President Numayri and agreement was reached via the Sudanese ambassador in Tripoli on the reorganization and rearmament of the Sudanese Armed Forces, and the Jamahiriyah's contribution to Sudan's land reclamation programmes and the opening of new horizons of cooperation between both countries.

'REVOLUTIONARY FORCE' TAKES OVER JANA PARIS OFFICE

LD220900 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Statement by the "revolutionary force in France in control of the JANA office in Paris"; date of issue not given]

[Text] In accordance with the wishes of the commander of the great 1 September Revolution concerning control of the information media by the forces of the vigilant revolution, the revolutionary forces in France have rallied together and have taken control of the JANA office in Paris. The Jamahiriyah's revolutionary information has become an urgent and imperitive necessity for keeping up with the movement of the revolution and for enriching the revolutionary information experiment. The revolutionary forces in France have accepted the law of the revolution and its legitimacy and regard the call and propagation of the objectives of the great 1 September Revolution outlined in the speech of the commander of the revolution on the 11th anniversary of the great 1 September Revolution as an objective guide. Therefore, the revolutionary force has decided the following:

1. The information experiment led by the revolution force internally must also be reflected in the information centers abroad.
2. The information centers abroad must exercise the popular aspect of information.
3. One of the brothers has been assigned to run the JANA office. The revolution force will continue to mobilize itself in serving the center until it achieves the kind of information that will keep abreast of the revolution march internally and externally.

Forward. The great 1 September Revolution will always prevail.

[Signed] The revolution force in France in control of the JANA office in Paris.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA VIEWS SUCCESS OF NONALIGNED MEETING

LD211306 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Rabat, 21 Feb, (MAP)--In an interview to Moroccan radio and television network after his return from New Delhi Nonaligned Conference, Mr. M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan state minister of foreign affairs and cooperation declared that the New Delhi conference redressed the Nonaligned Movement which had deviated, mainly during the Havana summit, adding that the movement has found its path again, as was traced by its great founders and would play a major role in safeguarding humanity's peace and progress.

Concerning the tension prevailing in North-West Africa, Mr. Boucetta said during the New Delhi conference, many African, Asian and Arab countries understood the reality of the Moroccan cause, so much that the so called Polisario and the presumed Sahrawi Republic were not even brought up.

He said that the 1979 Havana summit which had "deplored" Morocco's action in recovering its territory was very much under constant pressure from tendencies close to the communist blocks which led it to deviate from principles of nonalignment.

SUDAN

PLO REPRESENTATIVE DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA

JN221539 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Feb (SUNA)--SUNA has learned that a decree has been issued declaring 'Abdallah Ramadan (Abu Haytham), the PLO's representative in Sudan, persona non grata. He and three of his aides were given 48 hours to leave the country.

In a message to the PLO, Sudan has asked that they be replaced by others who would safeguard and strengthen the eternal relations between the Palestinian and Sudanese people. The Sudanese memo said that Abu Haytham's behavior has harmed the relations between the PLO and Sudan, particularly since he has continually voiced his blatant hostility toward the Sudanese authority. He has also shown disrespect and lack of tact in his dealings with Sudanese citizens. He has shown his clear enmity to the authority in a number of public places. The memo cited a number of incidents showing his rashness, irresponsibility, threats and terrorism. It said he once publicly threatened to liquidate an Arab musical group in an Arab club in Khartoum if it did not stop playing a certain piece of music.

An official source told SUNA that the request to replace the head of the PLO office and his colleagues does not mean severing relations with the PLO or closing down its office in Khartoum. On the contrary, Sudan seeks to have good relations with the PLO and the Palestinian people. Sudan stresses its stand on the PLO which supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Sudan is always trying to support their rights by every means. Sudan is exerting every effort for the Palestinian cause. Sudan's relations and its stand will not be influenced by the rash personal behavior of some members of the PLO.

23 Feb Departure

JN231104 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 23 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 23 Feb (SUNA)--Khalif 'Abdallah Ramadan, alias Abu Haytham, PLO representative in Khartoum, and three of his aides left Khartoum this morning after being declared personae non gratae.

TUNISIA

MZALI COMMENTS ON MAGHREB, LIBYAN RELATIONS

LD211632 Tunis TAP in English 1422 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Paris, 21 Feb (TAP)--Tunisia's premier, Mr Mohamed Mzali expressed much optimism for the edification of the Arab Maghreb despite the conflicts and the problems of this region. "I am obsessed by the great Maghreb", he stressed during a luncheon-debate organised in his honour by the diplomatic press in Paris, in the course of the visit he paid to France.

"The Arab Maghreb, he remarked, will have a population of 100 million in the year 2000. It is a region full of natural resources and of a valuable elite. I think that this Maghreb will be created but that it will be what I personally call a functional union or unity. It is the most realistic and most valuable idea because each country of the Maghreb can keep its political entity, its constitutional regime. The three countries and may be the five countries of the Maghreb are (?condemned) in the near future to cooperate and work toward achieving the economic integration, within the unity of their educational and cultural systems and must have further consultations among themselves and achieve a greater unity on the political level.

Asked on the relations between Tunisia and Libya, the Tunisian prime minister affirmed that these reactions were indeed improving and that he was invited to pay an official visit to Libya.

Answering a question on Tunisia's reaction concerning the statement of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi who affirmed that he intended to visit Tunis, Mr Mzali said: "President al-Qadhdhafi is always the most welcomed in Tunisia. There is no problem".

Concerning the problem of Chad, and the question of the union between Chad and Libya, the Tunisian prime minister affirmed that only the two countries concerned should decide on this question and that this union should not be speculated upon before it is indeed achieved.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON MZALI PARIS VISIT

LD211111 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] The joint Tunisian-French communique issued at the end of Prime Minister Mzali's official visit to France says that during their talks the Tunisian and French prime ministers exchanged points of view on problems of international politics and thoroughly looked into bilateral relations in the political, economic, financial, social cultural, scientific and technical domains. They praised the close ties of cooperation existing in these various fields and the progress recorded in the last few months since the official visit by Mr Raymond Barre to Tunis from 21 to 29 October 1980.

The communique says that the Tunisian side presented the scope of the sixth development plan and the need for financing it, expressing the hope that in the future the French contribution to the financing of Tunisian investment will be consolidated.

The French side confirmed its intention to bring cooperation between the two countries, especially financing cooperation--thanks to the consolidation of the general French assistance--in line with the new requirements of economic and social development of Tunisia which resulted from the sixth plan.

In this context it was decided to set up a joint working group to follow up Tunisian development projects which could be implemented by French establishments and which could lead to preferential financing through protocol. Recalling their desire to give Tunisian-French cooperation a new impetus, the two premiers studied the actions taken to achieve this objective.

In this context they expressed satisfaction about the agreements signed with French banks in order to set up an investment bank with the participation of French, Tunisian and Arab financial institutions. These agreements will facilitate the setting up of the bank in the near future. The positive development of contacts between establishments in the two countries for the realization of joint industrial investments in Tunisia, which would enable a real transfer of technology, was recorded with satisfaction. They expressed special interest in the development of cooperation in the field of energy conservation and the development of new energy, including solar energy which will [word indistinct] substantial operations.

The communique also says that a solution to the Middle East crisis requires the participation of all the interested parties including the Palestinian people, that is the PLO in negotiations and that such a solution requires that all the parties agree to the principle of a settlement. The two prime ministers examined relations between Tunisia and the EEC in a thorough way. The Tunisian prime minister reiterated Tunisia's concern in this respect.

The French premier said that he completely realizes the importance attached by Tunisia to the entry of certain of its agricultural and industrial products onto the EEC market, and repeated his determination to see to it that consideration is given to Tunisian concerns during the debates of the 10 member states concerning the implementation of the agreements of 25 Apri 1976.

The two prime ministers praised the high level of exchanges between the two countries in the cultural, scientific and technical domains. They stressed the importance attached in both countries to a better knowledge of the [word indistinct] and their respective civilizations. The two prime ministers also emphasized the importance they both attach to strengthening technical cooperation, and hoped for efforts to be continued in this respect to give priority to certain sectors in the Tunisian development plan, [words indistinct] encouragement to the transfer of technology.

The two prime ministers voiced their conviction that Europe can play a role in all efforts to make negotiations easier to find a peaceful solution to the problem of the Middle East. In this respect they consider that the proclamation issued on 3 December 1980 in Luxembourg by the European Council constitutes a positive contribution to the search for such a solution.

The two prime ministers expressed regret at the continuation of the conflict between Iraq and Iran, voicing their hope too that the two countries will put an end to the fighting and exert efforts on both sides to solve this dispute by peaceful means. They reaffirmed their support for all the efforts made in order to end this conflict.

The two sides condemned racist practices in South Africa, and hoped that it will begin implementing the UN plan for the independence of Namibia as soon as possible.

Regarding African [word indistinct] the two prime ministers believe that the OAU is the natural framework for the search for peaceful solutions to such [word indistinct] in accordance with its charter, and especially the provision not to interfere in domestic affairs and to respect the independence and territorial integrity of all countries.

Regarding the situation in Asia, the two sides stressed the great importance they attach to finding an (?honorable) settlement to the Afghan crisis including a [word indistinct] withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and freedom for the Muslim people of Afghanistan to chose its own political future. [passage indistinct]

REPORTAGE ON SHAMIR'S U.S. TALKS, ISSUES

Shamir Interview

TA210929 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Interview of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by U.S. correspondent Shalom Qital on 20 February; place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] The U.S. administration is inclined to meet the Saudi request [for additional equipment for F-15's] halfway. Our position is known. We are opposed to this move. However, they announced that they would make a decision on the matter after consulting with us. So, in the meantime, it was agreed not to make any decision.

[Question] Was there reference made to compensation for Israel?

[Answer] We did not make such a proposal. Several ideas have been raised on this issue. I read about it in the papers and heard it from some people. However, this has not been negotiated.

[Question] Have you gained the impression that the United States will supply all the equipment Saudi Arabia is requesting?

[Answer] As I have said, there has been no decision on the matter.

[Question] What is your reaction to the fact that several senators have explicitly urged the administration not to sell this equipment to Saudi Arabia? There are some senators who claim that Israel has not sufficiently fought against this.

[Answer] I was not surprised to find that there are some senators who object to this deal for obvious reasons. I have not heard that there are senators who claim that Israel has not objected to it.

[Question] Mr Shamir, let us move to another topic: the autonomy negotiations, which have been stuck for some months. Your position, the position of the Israeli Government, is known--that the negotiations should be accelerated. It seems that there is no absolute agreement on this issue with the U.S. administration.

[Answer] I would not say so. The U.S. administration believes that the peace process should continue. It explains a certain delay on their part by saying that they are a new administration that has only recently assumed office. They have many pressing problems and have not yet found the time to deal with this issue. The U.S. administration accepts our view that U.S. involvement should resume and they will do so in the near future.

[Question] Have they not yet decided on the way?

[Answer] They have not yet decided on the exact way. However, they will decide about it in the very near future.

[Question] Will there be visits on the high level, that is, by the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister, in the near future?

[Answer] Among other things, we also discussed this point. However, no definite decision has been made on this issue either.

[Question] Another issue related to the negotiations--the European initiative. As you know, the British prime minister and the French foreign minister will visit Washington next week. How is the administration preparing to face this European offensive?

[Answer] I got the impression that the U.S. administration does not attach great importance to this European offensive on the peace process. In any case, they object to these positions. I got the impression that they will say so to the Europeans.

[Question] I understand that you also discussed the multinational force in the Sinai.

[Answer] We certainly discussed this matter, and in-depth, at that. A U.S. delegation will leave for the Middle East in the next few days. The delegation will visit Israel and Egypt and will begin negotiations on the establishment of this force.

[Question] Have any ideas been raised on this subject?

[Answer] At this stage, the reference is only to preliminary talks.

Jerusalem Views

TA212002 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] How do circles in Jerusalem view the course of Foreign Minister Shamir's talks with the representatives of the new U.S. administration? Here is a report by our political correspondent, Elimelekh Ram:

[Begin recording] The new administration obviously has a different order of priorities from that of the Carter administration. This is the prevailing view among political circles. Will U.S. foreign policy focus on Saudi Arabia exclusively or on Saudi Arabia and Israel? This is one of the many questions for which there is no answer yet.

Will the Israel-Egypt peace treaty have the same priority it had under the former administration? This is another question for which there is no answer as yet. Does the new administration see an urgency, which will be expressed by the resumption of the autonomy negotiations, in maintaining the political momentum of the peace process? These and other questions remain unanswered even after the talks conducted by Foreign Minister Shamir in Washington and will be unanswered even after the anticipated meeting of Prime Minister Begin and President Reagan. The answers to these questions will be provided by the implementation of U.S. foreign policy. Talks, statements and even written messages are not a guarantee for action, according to circles in Jerusalem. The real test will be in the aid extended to Israel, in the implementation of the peace treaty, in the establishment of the multinational force for the supervision of Sinai and in actions that will prove that the peace accords in Camp David are the cornerstone of U.S. policy in the Middle East. Until then, all that can be done is to wait. [end recording]

Our correspondent further says it is believe that during Foreign Minister Shamir's meeting with Ronald Reagan on 24 February the date for the meeting between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the U.S. President will probably be set. The likely time is mid-April.

During the Cabinet session tomorrow the prime minister will report to the Cabinet about the foreign minister's talks in Washington.

'Compensation' Issue

TA221224 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Feb 81 pp 1, 15

[By Washington correspondent Rafa'el Mann]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in his talks with his U.S. counterpart Alexander Haig over the weekend, did not discuss the nature of "the compensation" that the United States was ready to grant Israel because of Washington's intention to sell offensive equipment to Saudi Arabia for the improvement of the capacity of the "F-15" aircraft, Israeli circles in Washington reported.

The Israeli circles said that Mr Shamir's refusal to discuss the "nature of compensation" stemmed, among other things, from the Israeli stance that such a deal is utterly undesirable and from the Israeli unwillingness to be involved in a "deal" according to which Israel would cease its opposition or weaken it, in excahnge for adequate "compensation".

If the United States sells the requested items to Saudi Arabia, Israel would insist that the balance of power in the Middle East should not be impaired. However, according to the Israeli circles, Israel does not intend to withdraw its opposition to the deal a priori in exchange for U.S. compensation in the form of financial aid or the supply of other weapons.

In the talks with Foreign Minister Shamir it has been found that the Americans do intend to sell to Saudi Arabia some but not all of the items it requested for the "F-15" planes.

Further Report

TA221105 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Feb 81 pp 1,6

[By Washington correspondent Ron Ben Yishay]

[Excerpts] The U.S. administration is offering Israel special loans in order to help "restore the security balance that may be upset" on Israel's eastern front if and when the United States sells Saudi Arabia more equipment for its F-15 jets.

According to senior political circles in Israel, this offer does not constitute an adequate solution to the problem. Further loans will add to the heavy burden of external debt that Israel is already shouldering.

According to reliable sources U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig offered to his Israeli counterpart Yitzhaq Shamir that the United States would give more loans to Israel, outside the framework of the aid budgets. With the money from these loans, Israel was offered the purchase over the next 3 years of the armaments needed in order to reinforce its air and anti-aircraft defensive system on the eastern border.

In his offer the U.S. secretary of state did not specify any arms systems but mentioned the idea of special aid from the purpose of "restoring the balance" from the security standpoint. He also made it clear that the loans he offered would be given under regular conditions under which the United States extends military aid, namely with the high interest that is now prevailing on the U.S. market.

Israel still has the "option" from the days of the former administration to acquire more "F-15" aircraft. This option has not been used because the Treasury and Defense Ministry economists concluded that under these financing conditions the Israeli Treasury cannot afford such a deal. Circles in Jerusalem therefore think that Alexander Haig's proposal, as it is, does not constitute a reasonable basis for solving the problem.

Those circles stress that even if Alexander Haig's proposal were "far reaching in its generosity," Foreign Minister Shamir would be unable to accept it. The reason is that the Israel Government still has to decide whether it accepts the principle of "security compensation" in exchange for lifting its opposition to the arms deal with Saudi Arabia. A decision on this has to be made in Jerusalem on the basis of Foreign Minister Shamir's reports about his talks in Washington.

A preliminary report of this kind was dispatched to Jerusalem on Friday, 20 February. Reliable sources think, however, that the government will await Yitzhaq Shamir's return from his trip to Colombia and Mexico and the outcome of his talk with President Ronald Reagan on 24 February before it holds an exhaustive debate of this issue.

It was for this reason that Minister Shamir, in his talks with the U.S. secretaries of state and of defense, refrained from comment on Haig's proposal. He was satisfied with presenting the Israeli stance which opposed the Saudi deal.

Summing up his talks in Washington, Yitzhaq Shamir told Israeli correspondents: "I have been profoundly impressed with the friendliness for Israel and the profound estimate of its strategic position...and of course I was impressed with the high caliber of the people with whom I met." Shamir's confidants stress that "the talks were very good, notwithstanding differences of opinion that can be bridged."

Our Jerusalem correspondent, Zvi Kessler, reports: "It appears that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has been explicitly informed in his talks in Washington that the United States does not even intend to discuss the possibility of not implementing the advanced arms deal with Saudi Arabia, notwithstanding Israel's objection.

Strategic Cooperation

TA231100 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Feb 81 p 15

[By Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The United States intends to include Israel in the regional strategic system it is planning for the Middle East. According to reports arriving in Jerusalem, the U.S. administration intends to reinforce Israel's military strength with modern weapons systems, as well as public commitments--and these may also take the form of open agreements--to see to Israel's defense. These steps will be taken at the same time as the reinforcement of Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Political circles in Israel said this morning that the visit by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir could pave the way for unprecendented strategic cooperation between the two countries.

Bilateral Cooperation

TA231117 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Feb 81 pp 1, 15

[By Refa'el Mann and Razi Gutterman]

[Excerpts] Willingness to expand cooperation between Israel and the United States in fields in which Israel has been interested for many years was expressed to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in talks he held in Washington. This was confirmed yesterday by Israeli sources.

The Israeli sources also expressed their satisfaction over the fact that Mr Haig emphasized in public that the peace progress would continue, based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and in accordance with the Camp David agreements. Although Mr Haig explained that the United States was not yet prepared for the immediate resumption of the autonomy talks, as Israel is demanding, Minister Shamir's confidants said last night that U.S. involvement in the talks would go into "high gear" within 1 month. This activity may be in the framework of visits by President Anwar as-Sadat and Prime Minister Menahem Begin to Washington or a visit by Secretary of State Haig to the Middle East.

It has been learned that the possibility of a visit by Haig has been discussed as a reaction to the Israeli request for active U.S. involvement in the peace process. No decision has yet been made on whether this really is the preferred way of doing things and therefore no decision has been made about the date of the visit. Referring to an agreement about U.S. intentions to supply Saudi Arabia with the axiliary equipment for the F-15, a senior Israeli source said that it would be a mistake if differences of opinion over this issue were to affect U.S.-Israeli understanding on other, more important issues.

"The Americans have given tangible expression to the fact that they are not prepared to make any moves that will weaken Israel" the same source said, adding that if the deal with Saudi Arabia was actually implemented the United States would work to prevent a change for the worse in the balance of forces.

ETHIOPIA

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GDR

LD212122 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 20 Feb 81 EA

[Excerpt] The Agricultural Equipment and Technical Service Corporation of the Ministry of State Farms is to receive modern equipment and technical assistance from the GDR to facilitate the construction and development of a central maintenance garage. In connection with the assistance, an agreement specifying the dispatching, assembly and use of the equipment and the training of Ethiopian technicians was signed today at the assembly hall of the Ministry of State Farms. Comrade Demrew Metaferia, general manager of the Agricultural Equipment and Technical Service Corporation, and Comrade Peter (Gomhert), GDR commercial attache, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments. The free aid from the people and Government of the GDR to the people and Government of Ethiopia is worth 4 million birr. Wekzeugmaschinen und Werkzeuge, a GDR technical equipment exporting corporation, will undertake the responsibilities of assembling and installing the equipment as well as training Ethiopian technicians.

MENGISTU DELEGATION LEAVE FOR CPSU CONGRESS

LD221610 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0500 GMT 22 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, the chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, left Addis Ababa yesterday for Moscow to attend the 26th CPSU congress. The comrade chairman and his entourage were seen off at Bole International Airport by Comrade Fesseha Desta, assistant secretary general of the PMAC, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and executive member of COPWE; members of the standing committee of the PMAC; executive members of COPWE; ministers; commissioners; Central Committee members of COPWE; force commanders; senior government officials; Comrade Boris Kirnasovskiy, the Soviet ambassador to socialist Ethiopia; and other members of the embassy.

His delegation includes Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wogderes, secretary general of the PMAC and Executive Committee member of COPWE; Comrade Berhanu Bahey, member of the standing committee of the PMAC and executive committee member of COPWE; Comrade Mengistu Gemechu, Central Committee member of COPWE and special advisor to the comrade chairman; Comrade Shimeles Mazengia, Central Committee member of COPWE and editor-in-chief of the organ of the COPWE Central Committee; and Comrade Fisseha Geda, Central Committee of COPWE and chief of protocol in the office of the chairman.

KENYA

PRESIDENT MOI LEAVES ON 5-DAY TRIP TO INDIA

LD221542 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 22 Feb 81 EA

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi left Nairobi this morning for a 5-day state visit to India. He is leading a high-powered delegation comprising ministers, assistant ministers, members of Parliament, top civil servants and businessmen. President Moi left by a special Air India plane, and is scheduled to arrive in Bombay shortly after 1700, where he is expected to spend the night. He will then fly to New Delhi, where a red carpet welcome awaits him.

The presidential entourage includes a minister of state in the president's office, Mr Nicholas Biwott; the minister for foreign affairs, De Robert Ouko; the minister for constitutional and home affairs, Mr Charles Njonjo; the minister for industry, Dr Munyua Waiyaki; and the minister for higher education, Mr Joseph Kamotho.

Others in the entourage include an assistant minister in the office of the president, Mr Isaac Salat; Mr Kamwithi Munyi, an assistant minister fo foreign affairs; an assistant minister for economic planning and development, Mr John Keen; and a member of Parliament, Mr Krishna Gautama. Two businessmen and a number of parastatal bodies' chairmen are also in the presidential entourage. While in India, his excellency the president will hold talks with the Indian president, Sanjiva Reddy, and the Indian prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi. He will also visit several places of historical, economic and commercial interest before returning to Kenya on Friday, February 27, shortly after 1500.

SOMALIA

PRESIDENT ORDERS PARDON FOR SOMALIS IN EXILE

LD211514 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 21 Feb 81 EA

[Text] A directive issued by the president of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR], Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, states that with effect from 14 February 1981 any Somali who committed an offense against the state before 14 February 1981 and is currently living outside the SDR, whether convicted or not, has been pardoned under a general amnesty. The directive states that anyone wishing to take advantage of this general amnesty should fulfill the following conditions:

First, he/she should return to the SDR within 3 months of 14 February 1981; second, he/she should report, as soon as he/she enters the country, to the nearest headquarters or base of the security forces or magistrates office to confirm the date of his/her return and to take the necessary steps in implementing the general amnesty. This directive requires the empowered magistrate to implement the case of the person taking advantage of the amnesty or his assistants or representatives in the regions and districts to deal with each case in accordance with the law.

UGANDA

SOVIET INSTRUCTORS TO TEACH AT MAKERE UNIVERSITY

LD201530 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 20 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Thirteen Soviet university lecturers and professors will arrive in Uganda shortly to take up appointments in the faculties of medicine and technology at Makere University. This was announced today by the counsellor at the Soviet Embassy in Kampala, Mr (Roman Lozenkov), when he called on the minister of state for education, Mr Mateke, at his office in Crested Towers. Mr (Lozenkov) also informed the minister that the Soviet Government is giving due consideration to Uganda's request for scholastic materials. Earlier, the minister expressed the government's gratitude to the Soviet Government for its generous offer of scholarships. The meeting was attended by Nmr Ntimba, permanent secretary, Ministry of Education.

NAIROBI REPORTS ARRESTS OF OPPOSITION FIGURES

LD201842 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] Kampala--Ugandan authorities have arrested two parliamentarians of the opposition Democratic Party. The two detained poiticians are named as former Industry Minister Yoweri Kyesimira and DR (Eriabo Muzira), a former permanent secretary. Their arrest brings to five the total number of prominent opposition leaders now under detention. The first three, all from the opposition Uganda Patriotic Movement, were the party's secretary general, Bidandi Ssali; the Rev Christopher Okoth and a former junior minister, Rhoda Kalema. No formal charges have been brought against them.

CHAD

GOVERNMENT PLEDGES EFFORT TO DEMILITARIZE NDJAMENA

AB211342 Paris AFP in English 1149 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 21 Feb (AFP)--The Chadian Government decided once more this week to tackle a problem it has been unable to solve in its 15 months of existence, and which led to last year's civil war--the occupation of this capital by various factional armies.

A cabinet communique published yesterday said the government of President Goukouni Oueddei had decided to do everything possible toward the demilitarization of Ndjamena.

But the cabinet, at its meeting Thursday, [word indistinct] take up the question of the neutral peacekeeping force for Chad that was proposed by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and would be one answer to the demilitarization problem.

The communique said this question would be discussed later. There is disagreement on the subject among the factions in the government.

The withdrawal of Libyan forces, also demanded by the OAU, was not mentioned in the communique. The Libyans helped Mr. Goukouni's forces and their allies from other factions defeat rebel Defense Minister Hissein Habre in December, ending the nine-month war.

The cabinet also decided to set up a constitutional committee, a national reconstruction committee and a committee to study the formation of a national army from the faction troops.

The communique emphasized that all the measures were being taken in the context of the Lagos accords of August, 1979, in which African states agreed to set up an interim union government in conflict-torn Chad.

Some OAU members have expressed reservations about how far Mr. Goukouni's government, as an interim administration, is empowered to go in diplomatic initiatives with Libya and domestic matters, before elections are held.

LIBYAN AID CALLED 'MINI-MARSHALL PLAN,' DETAILED

AB211403 Paris AFP in French 1152 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 21 Feb (AFP)--If Libya's promises to help Chad are carried out, it will give a breathing space to the state [Chad], the CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY [ATP] asserted on Saturday.

After Major Jallud's visit to Ndjamena last Saturday, Tripoli's proposals, which the ATP described as a real mini-Marshall Plan, reveal the last strengthening stage of the ever-growing ties between Libya and Chad, observers believe in Ndjamena.

According to the ATP, these assistance and cooperation promises for the reconstruction of Chad--which can be evaluated at several hundreds of millions of dollars--are the result of the international community's obstinate refusal to come to the aid of Chad, which has been fatally struck by 9 months of civil war and 2 years of instability.

It is only Libya which is prepared to help Chad, the ATP specifically noted. If Chad becomes hot one day, it is the West that caused it, it declared.

It will be recalled that Libya undertook to take care of the salaries of the Chadian civil servants--about $3 million for 6 months--as of the month of March.

This measure, observers stress, will undoubtedly have an important psychological impact and will, with the return of the civil servants to the Chadian capital, ensure a restarting of the administration.

The second key point--that of the reopening of the central bank was also raised during the Libyan number two's visit; but no details were given on the nature of the Libyan assistance, since the settlement of this problem remains linked to the attitude of the Bank of Central African States.

Major Jallud had also explained that Libya was ready to finance the emoluments of the soldiers of the future integrated national army, which can be estimated at $3 million [FF 15 million]. Finally, Libya will supply emergency short-term aid for the restoration of the civil service infrastructure, the total cost of which is estimated at between $10 to $20 million. This will either be in the form of technical aid or in materials.

On a longer term basis, the Libyan leader has announced loans for agricultural and agro-industrial projects worth between $50 and $100 million.

Libya has also promised to participate in industrial projects all over the country, thus creating thousands of job openings, with 4,000 in Ndjamena. But the nature of these projects is yet to be known.

GUINEA

CONKARY REPORT ON CABINET RESHUFFLE CITED

AB211142 Paris AFP in French 1121 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Dakar, 21 Feb (AFP)--Conkary radio, monitored in Dakar, reported Saturday on several changes of portfolios within the Guinean Cabinet. This is the first information on a cabinet reshuffle in Guinea.

According to the Guinean radio, Mr Senainon Behanzin, former minister of information becomes minister of agro-pastoral farms and cooperative societies replacing Mr Alafe Kourouma, appointed minister of posts and telecommunications. The Information Ministry becomes a commissionership-general, headed by Mr Sekou Kaba, who was previously the secretary general of the government.

Former Posts and Telecommunications Minister Siaka Toure had been appointed transport minister in place of Mr Mouctar Diallo, who becomes minister of technical education and professional training, a newly-created ministry.

The Ministry of Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises and Crafts--newly created--is headed by Mr Fily Cissoko, the former minister of fisheries and animal husbandry. He is replaced by Mr Ibrahima Fofana, the former commissioner general of the revolution--a kind of super-prefect--of Conkary, who joins the government for the first time.

Former Minister of Foreign Trade Momory Camara has been appointed commissioner general of the revolution in Boke, the country's mining district, to replace Mr Toumani Sangare. The Guinean radio station does not give the name of the minister of external trade, nor the new post assigned to Mr Sangare.

GUINEA-BISSAU

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS

AB201413 Paris AFP in French 1339 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] Bissau, 20 Feb (AFP)--Victor Saude Maria, minister of foreign affairs and vice president of the Revolutionary Council in power in Guinea-Bissau, left Bissau Friday for Moscow where he will attend the 26th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party.

Mr Saude Maria is accompanied by Joseph Turpin, minister of trade, fisheries and craft, and top civil servants in the Revolutionary Council. Mr Turpin will later go to Paris where he will lead his country's delegation to a meeting of the joint cooperation commission between France and Guinea-Bissau.

STUDENTS PROTEST CUBAN METHODS; ARMY INTERVENES

AB201953 Paris AFP in French 1745 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] Bissau, 20 Feb (AFP)--The armed forces had to intervene at the principal secondary school in Bissau, where the police had failed to put an end to the incidents caused by the students who are protesting against the introduction of Cuban methods of marking test papers in Guinea-Bissau. After paralyzing classes, the students took to the destruction of facilities. They even wounded the headmaster of the institution with stones.

These incidents--the first of its kind since the country's independence in 1974--originate from the students' refusal to accept the Cuban methods of marking test papers which is based on 100. This method takes into consideration not only the results of the written and oral exams, but also their activities at home, their behavior, their industriousness at school and their voluntary work. In reality, the Cuban method entails a continuous evaluation of the students, whereas the latter seem to prefer the prompt marking of test papers inherited from the Portuguese system. Some of the teachers of the school, Portuguese technical assistants, also favor returning to the former method of grading from 0 to 20.

Observers in Bissau feel that the issue of the Cuban method is not without political motivation, the 14 November coup having opened the way for a certain amount of protest.

IVORY COAST

PARTY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON SALARY REFORMS

AB210953 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Political Bureau Communique read by Laurent Dona Fologo, member of the Political Bureau Executive Committee--recorded]

[Text] Meeting on Friday, 20 February, from 1000 to 1200, at the Presidential Palace, under the chairmanship of the head of state, President Felix Houphuet-Boigny, chairman of the party, the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast, enlarged to include members of the government, made a detailed analysis of the political and economic situation of the country in the light of the difficult socio-economic situation prevailing in all the countries of the world, even in the most developed ones, and adopted the following declaration:

During its seventh congress held in Abidjan last October, the party, while illuminating the enormous progress achieved by the Ivory Coast since independence, insisted on pointing out the errors and omissions of these achievements and made a deep and courageous self-criticism. These mistakes and omissions were both political and economic.

In the Political Sphere

The newly found democracy was applied at all levels to achieve the renewal of all party organs. The mistakes and omissions were straightened out and the Ivorian people had a new political life. Now, the party is called upon to reestablish a total general reconciliation among all social classes of the country, united behind President Houphouet-Boigny, in whom they unanimously renewed their total confidence.

In the Economic Sphere

Mistakes and omissions, in particular by the growing number of the state enterprises as well as their largely disastrous management, have for some months now been the subject of study and practical measures aimed at redressing the situation.

It is a question of bringing to a successful conclusion this purge of the finances of the para-state sector. The first step is to simply eliminate certain state companies which are not deemed to be indispensable to the forward progress of the country and which lost more than the services they render to the country. The second step is to end all the over-indulgences which have been observed among the management of the enterprises which have not been dissolved. These abuses are not only limited to the intolerable inequalities within the enterprises and between the various sectors and bodies of the state but also seriously affected the correct management of public finances. These abuses discovered here and there in these enterprises went from exhorbitant salaries set by the directors for themselves and for the other heads of services of the enterprises as far as to excessive and even fantastic remunerations and advantages given to some workers who did not deserve them.

In a spirit of social justice and national solidarity, in the context of a particularly difficult economic situation for Third World countries, the government, at the request of the party, has decided to put an end to these abuses. As should be expected, these enterprises which granted these inadmissible salaries and advantages and which, moreover, indulged in abusive recruitment in a spirit of favoritism immediately set to work to launch a real campaign of slander, thereby sowing confusion and concern among the workers.

It is true that the reorganization measures decided upon by the government were understood and implemented in different ways. In spite of the national meetings which were held in this connection, the information was not sufficiently propagated among the masses. It appears, especially with respect to the affected enterprises and bodies, that correct information was not given to those concerned by the directors, even though they worked and worked constantly with the government on the anticipated measures. Sometimes, the information was even deliberately distorted in such a way that errors were made in the implementation of the measures, since workers of some enterprises which are not involved in the measures were affected. This is why the Political Bureau wants to clarify the following:

1. What are involved are only reorganization measures meant to eliminate in a spirit of justice and national solidarity the abuses and inequalities which have been observed in state enterprises.

2. Only the following officials of these state enterprises will be affected by the measures: directors general, deputy directors general, directors, deputy directors, heads of departments and, in general, all those whose salaries were abnormal.

The party wants to point out that it is not now, nor was it ever a question of applying the measures to the low level Ivorian wage earner, whose standard of living has already been hard hit by the difficult conditions which we are experiencing.

However, those abnormal salaries, which were set by directors either out of favoritism or out of sheer caprice, will be brought down to a just level in order that they might be more in keeping with the true qualifications of those concerned and their services to the enterprises, as well as in line with the salaries in the other sectors of the civil service.

3. The Political Bureau reiterates the appeal made by government to the directors of the state enterprises affected, and to those of national enterprises--industrial and commercial public corporations (EPIC), administrative public corporation (EPA)--to supply in the shortest possible time the salary scales in their enterprises, especially the salaries of all categories of technicians, skilled workers, tractor drivers, drivers, etc, whose services to the enterprise are highly valuable because of their qualifications and their experiences and whose salaries must be maintained.

The salary scales will be examined and the salaries will be fixed on a permanent basis by an ad hoc committee in which the directors of the companies and organizations in question will participate.

4. While waiting for the decision of this commission, the Political Bureau asks the government to maintain the former salaries of all the agents and workers with the exception of course, high officials--that is to say, directors general, deputy directors general, directors, deputy directors and heads of departments--whose salaries have been reduced to the level of the civil service.

The Political Bureau reaffirms its unflinching willingness to carry out firmly this fiscal and social clean-up necessary to our country within the spirit of justice, of equity, of social peace and of good management.

It appeals to the civic and militant spirit of all, especially to the workers who should not let themselves be misled by those spreading false rumors and by the authors of slander.

The Political Bureau reminds the nation that the Ivory Coast is a country of dialogue and brotherhood. As a result, whatever may be the problem, it must be solved through dialogue and free discussion. In any event, the Political Bureau invites the government to take every necessary measure to maintain social order and peace which constitute the only factors of progress.

SENEGAL

SENGHOR FAULTS AL-QADHDHAFI, ACCEPTS U.S. TROOPS

NC211227 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Paris, 21 Feb (AFP)--Former Senegalese President Leopold Senghor said today international communism is behind Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in his initiatives in Africa, and the Polisario Front in its war against Morocco.

"Al-Qadhdhafi is the most active agent of international communism, although he advertises himself as Arab and Moslem," Mr Senghor said in an interview published today in the Paris newspaper LE MATIN.

Mr Senghor, who resigned as president on December 31 after 20 years in office, said that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had failed to bring about mergers between Libya and several Arab states.

"Now, his imperialism is taking on a racist tinge: To create an Islamic Sahara Republic by unbalancing the black Sahel states, Chad, Niger, Mali, Senegal, Gambia and... Mauritania," Mr Senghor said.

"In any case, he is working for Moscow," Mr Senghor said.

The former president also said that he now regretted the vote by African states--including Senegal--at the Lagos conference on Chad in August 1979, for French troops to leave that country, which they did last May during the civil war there.

Mr Senghor said that now, Hissein Habre, the former defense minister defeated in the war by Libyan-aided Chad Government forces," can count on the active assistance of certain countries."

Mr Senghor added: "International communism is behind the Polisario too. I have criticized the West in general and the United States in particular for refusing to arm Morocco."

Morocco and the Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas are fighting for control of the Western Sahara.

Mr Senghor said Senegal would, if necessary, accept the presence of U.S. troops to confront "imperialism, from Libya or elsewhere."

The "positive side" to new U.S. President Ronald Reagan's foreign policy was that he appears ready to take a more active role against "the thrust of communism in Africa," he added.

On the negative side, Mr Seghnor said, Mr Reagan's administration had decided to reduce aid to the Third World and had not committed itself to continue the struggle against racial discrimination in the United States.

UPPER VOLTA

DECREE ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY LIFTING OF CURFEW

AB211128 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 21 Feb 81

[Text] Military Committee of Redress for National progress: In view of the Ouagadougou pan-African cinema festival, the curfew which had been imposed since 25 November 1980 has been temporarily lifted all over the national territory from 20 February to 1 March 1981. It will come back into force on 2 March 1981 at midnight. It should be understood that this special occasion should not be used to disturb public peace, order and security.

Ouagadougou, 20 February 1981. Signed by the President: Col Saye Zerbo.

ANGOLA

LISBON REPORTS AGREEMENT WITH SAO TOME,PRINCIPE

LD221108 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 Feb 81

[Text] President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and President Manuel Pinto da Costa of Sao Tome and principe yesterday signed a cooperation agreement in Luanda between the MPLA-Labor Party and the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and principe. The two sides reaffirmed in a communique their wish to strengthen ties of cooperation and bilateral relations at the party and state level and to bring about the conditions necessary for their subsequent implementation and development.

DOS SANTOS LEAVES FOR MOSCOW ACCOMPANIED BY NUJOMA

LD221640 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 22 Feb 81 EA

[Text] The president of the MPLA-Labor Party and the Peoples Republic of Angola, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, left for Moscow this morning on a visit to the USSR.

On his visit to that friendly country, the head of state and government will be accompanied by Comrade Pascual Luvualu, member of the Political Bureau; (Rodegil) and Afonso van Dunen Mbinda, who are members of the party Central Committee, and other officials of the president's office.

Sam Nujoma, the president of SWAPO, also left for Moscow together with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

At the Fourth of February International Airport they were seen off by party and government officials and diplomats accredited to Angola.

COMMUNIQUE TELLS OF SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACKS

LD221554 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 22 Feb 81 EA

[Text] A Defense Ministry communique released in Luanda yesterday presented a picture of the military situation in southern Angola.

The communique reported an increase of South African military attacks on the People's Republic of Angola in the first half of February.

The communique said that in the first days of February, aircraft of the South African Air Force violated our airspace by overflying the locations of (Sonococua), Chitato, Calueque, Naulila, Dombondola, Cuamato, (Damatel), Vale, Chingonde, Chama, Mupa, Capemba, (Mapendu), Olundu and (Canguerra).

The communique indicated that on 10 February, nine South African aircraft machinegunned a People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] detachment about 4 km from Ongiva. They were repulsed by our armed forces after they had already inflicted some material and human casulaties.

On 12 and 13 February, Pretoria racist troops transported by three helicopters landed at Mulemba with large quantities of war material. Also on 13 February, in a surprise action, Pretoria's troops penetrated as far as 250 km inside Angolan territory, while at the same time other racist troops landed in the Libala area between Mocamedes and Lubango, which is of vital importance to the train traffic which supplies the people of Huila, Cunene and Cuando Cubango Provinces.

On 14 February, the communique goes on, South African racist troops occupied Chiede village with armored cars and heavy artillery. On the following day, two columns of armored cars supported by helicopters took up positions in the (Iongue) and (Mulonha) areas.

The Defense Ministry note added that on 16 February, South African troops attacked members of the public between Chiede and Namacunde, killing and wounding 15 people.

The Defense Ministry communique adds that to date South African troops are still on our territory and that Angola expects more attacks in the coming days.

The communique said that given such a situation, the Defense Ministry wishes to alert international public opinion to this further act of aggression by the South African racist government. The communique informs the entire world that the FAPLA will not be intimidated by threats uttered by racist generals. More innocent young South African soldiers will be sent to sow death and destruction among the defenseless people of southern Angola, but they will never return to their bases in southern Africa, for the bullets which defend our people and our territorial integrity will meet them on the way and make them pay with their lives for the folly of the Pretoria racist generals, the communique concludes.

MOZAMBIQUE

USSR TO TRAIN TRADE UNION CADRES, STUDY FURTHER AID

LD201532 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 20 Feb 81 EA

[Text] Following an agreement signed yesterday between the production councils and the visiting delegation of the Soviet trade unions, a training course for trade unionist cadres, to be attended by 25 members of the production councils, will be held in the USSR this year.

After their training, these individuals will train Mozambique trade unionist cadres. Also within the terms of the agreement, the Central Council of the Soviet Trade Unions will study the possibility of rendering support to Mozambique production councils in the setting-up, organization and functioning of a national school of trade unions in Mozambique.

DOS SANTOS-LED DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BULGARIA

For reportage on the visit to Bulgaria by Marcelino dos Santos, secretary of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, see the Bulgaria section of the 23 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

FOUR CONVICTED 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' EXECUTED

LD201010 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 20 Feb 81 EA

[Text] A communique issued by the Ministry of National Defense issued yesterday reported that the counterrevolutionaries who were sentenced to death a few days ago by the revolutionary military have been executed. Here is the full text of the communique:

In the fulfillment of the sentence handed down by the Revolutionary Military Tribunal, Antonio Aleixo Araujo, Vasco Pinto Jose da Silva, Meriasse Nedisson Mpasso and Armando Jose Martinho, sentenced to death for crimes and membership, as leaders, of a clandestine organization, armed rebellion and terrorism, have been executed by firing squad.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA ANNOUNCES CISKEI TO BECOME INDEPENDENT 4 DEC

LD201314 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Feb 81

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, has announced that the national state of Ciskei is to become independent on 4 December. Mr Botha was speaking in Parliament during the third reading debate on the [word indistinct] appropriation bill. The prime minister said he had been told by the chief minister of Ciskei, Chief Lennox Sebe, that the Ciskei intended opting for independence in a peaceful way. Ciskei is the fourth national state to become independent. The others are Bophuthatswana, Transkei and Venda.

ZAMBIA

KAUNDA INTERESTED IN REAGAN'S SOUTHERN AFRICA ROLE

LD211112 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Feb 81 CA

[Text] President Kaunda has said in Lusaka today that Zambia is looking forward with keen interest to see what role the Ronald Reagan administration will play in regard to the southern African situation. The president, however, said Zambia cannot charge what the Reagan administration will do in the liberation struggle for southern Africa, because it has been in office for only a short period. [sentence as heard] The president said this when he hosted a private luncheon for former United States assistant secretary for African affairs, Mr Richard Moose. Dr Kaunda hoped the people in the White House would be guided by God so that they choose the right course and not go wrong. Dr Kaunda said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter played a great role in finding a solution for the independence of Zimbabwe. The record shows that Carter played a vital role and, as Reagan takes over in the White House, Zambia is reminded of the unfinished task in Namibia and South Africa, Dr Kaunda said.

In reply, Mr Moose noted that great progress had already been made in Zambian-American relations. He also called on President Kaunda to continue giving wise counsel to the southern African situation as he did during the Carter administration.

ZIMBABWE

AGREEMENT ESTABLISHES RELATIONS WITH USSR

LD211026 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Feb 81 CA

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, and the Soviet ambassador to Mozambique, Comrade Valentin Vdovin, have signed an agreement establishing diplomatic relations between Zimbabwe and the Soviet Union. Among the principles which will guide the relations between the two countries are noninterference in each other's internal affairs, the promotion of all-round bilateral mutual cooperation and the strengthening of international peace and stability. The representatives of the two governments fully concurred on questions of decolonization of Namibia and apartheid-ruled South Africa. They also agreed to strive for the elimination of all vestiges of racism and colonialism in southern Africa as well as anywhere else in the world.

In a brief speech at the signing ceremony, Comrade Mangwende welcomed the Soviet official to Zimbabwe and said that this country is determined to pursue an independent foreign policy. He said the policy is aimed at strengthening world peace, reducing tensions in the world and securing its political and economic interests.